

**ASSOCIATION OF FAMILIES OF KIDNAPPED AND  
MISSING PERSONS IN KOSOVO AND METOHIJA**

# **ABDUCTED TRUTH**



Photo-monograph is published on the occasion of

**21 YEARS SINCE THE FIRST ABDUCTION IN KOSOVO AND METOHIJA AND 19 YEARS OF WORK OF THE  
ASSOCIATION OF FAMILIES OF KIDNAPPED AND MISSING PERSONS IN KOSOVO AND METOHIJA**

**БЕОГРАД, 2019.**

## ABDUCTED TRUTH

21 years since the first abduction in Kosovo and Metohija

19 years of work of the Association of Families of Kidnapped and Missing Persons in Kosovo and Metohija

Photo-monograph of the Association of Families of Kidnapped and Missing Persons in Kosovo and Metohija 1998-2018

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# INTRODUCTION

This Photo-monograph is a testimony of twenty years long efforts of the Association to find the truth about the fates of our loved ones. One day of grief for the loved one who went out to see a friend, to work or to shop and never came back is enough to shatter or destroy the whole family. How do our families feel, how strong, tortured and divided are they after 7,440 days of patience, petrified sorrow and tears in front of the walls of the institutions which offered no comfort or justice?

## Justice We Expect No More, But the Truth We Hope for

After 249 months of waiting and expectations, while every day begins with the same thought and every night with the same prayer, we hope that, in lack of empathy, someone will at least feel sorry for our “deleted” fates. Justice we expect no more, but the truth we hope for to the last breath.

That hope has given us strength to keep on fighting and resulted in discovery of tragic fates of our 370 loved ones. Every piece of such information is hard and devastating, but it also means an end to the agony; the agony which still continues for 572 families.

Our Association, dedicated to only one human goal - to shed the light on the fate of the abducted and missing persons in Kosovo and Metohija, was founded on 14 March 2000. The fates of our dearest ones were sealed by armed and uniformed persons who called themselves Kosovo Liberation Army and after arrival of the peace forces the crimes were legalized through Kosovo Protection Corps.

They did not stop at that. The statistics of the Association prove that 20 per cent of the civilians went missing or were killed before the bombing, 5 per cent during the war and 75 per cent after the arrival of peacekeeping forces. The victims are members of all nations, national minorities and con-

fessions of faith, but the majority are the Serbs and Montenegrins, Romani, Muslims, Gorans, Turks, Macedonians, as well as the Albanians loyal to the Republic of Serbia. The criminals did not select the victims. They abducted women, children, old men, university professors, doctors, journalists, pupils, craftsmen, priests, farmers, artists.

The victims were also various categories of disabled persons, persons with reduced mental abilities who were unfortunately unable to look after themselves and bedridden persons. The crime scenes were family houses, workplaces as well as planned ambushes at crossroads and other public places. We responsibly affirm this, because our Association has analyzed all collected data about the time, place and manner of abductions.

Can anyone ever imagine with how many swords our lives have been stabbed, how many times we have died before the judgement day, and every time when we heard of the deeply hidden story about organ trafficking? Dick Marty bandaged our wounds saying that the evidence of human organs trafficking was found, that the international forces “did not find it necessary to conduct an investigation”, but that our tomorrow, although black, would still dawn when the first gavel bangs in the Special Court for war crimes

committed in Kosovo. Should I mention at all that only hope remained at the bottom of Pandora’s Box?

And we, wounded like this, have protested in the streets for years, attending, even when sick and weak, the meetings with the representatives of the government and international institutions, with the ambassadors of the countries who had missions in Kosovo and Metohija; we appealed, waiting for hours in front of the doors, we begged and cried.

All abductions of our family members were reported to KFOR, UNMIK, International Committee of Red Cross, OSCE and police of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Everything that we know now, and based on the opinion of the Human Rights Advisory Panel of UNMIK who was the only one to have access to all documents of that mission, is: “UNMIK did nothing to conduct any efficient investigation about kidnappings and killing of the abducted.”

Furthermore, the Advisory Panel recommended to UNMIK to apologize to the families, admit its responsibility and ask EULEX to continue where they had stopped. This was pushed under the carpet by both parties who were aware that by doing so they became the accomplices to the crime.

But, that was not the only thing they blasphemed. Our fates were thrown on the dump together with three signed protocols on cooperation between the UNMIK police and police of the FRY, as well as with the Agreement that obligated them to find all kidnapped and missing persons until the end of 2002 and to enable the return of 250,000 exiled Serbs back to their homes.

Notwithstanding the merit of all the members of our Association who have been striving for years to keep this difficult and painful topic from the oblivion, a small progress has been made in identification of the missing. By means of DNA analysis we discovered the fate of 370 members of our families; however, we are still searching for 572 persons.

Although all our families gave blood for DNA analysis, there are more than 350 remains at the Priština morgue that do not match blood samples given by the families.

It is absolutely clear that here we have substitution, wrong identification, which took place after arrival of KFOR. In 2000, the representatives of the Hague Tribunal delivered 2,000 bodies to the families of the Albanians, who recognized their relatives by the classic method. Out of that number, only

one person was of Serbian nationality.

Today, there is no way to persuade these Albanian families to allow exhumation. However, even where we think the graves are located, the locations to which we point out are not validated by those in charge of this issue. It means that the sign “STOP!” has been put there, too.

Not to mention the work of judicial authorities when processing the crimes against the Serbs! In 1998 alone, mass graves were discovered at Klečko, Radonjičko Lake, Glođane and Žilivode, whereas in 2005 body remains were found in the caves of Volujak and Mališevo. Nobody was sentenced for these crimes or for the exodus of 250,000 people. For killings after arrival of KFOR and UNMIK, the United Nations have never extended a word of consolation, or material compensation for emotional distress, or even an apology.

We fight to find the truth, but the Association is unable to render material help to the families who often live on the edge of existence. In our country, the Law on Missing Persons does not exist yet, although we have been persistently asking for it for 18 years. Forcible abductions and murders in Kosovo and Metohija are not tragedy of just one family; it is a systematic form of intimidation of the nation who was forced out of their centuries-old homes and fireplaces.

They can pull up the roots, but not the crimes against humanity. The cry of the mothers for the children they fed on their breasts and their hope to see their faces one day are stronger than any lawlessness and inhumanity.

The crimes against our dearest ones were committed twice. For the first time it was by those who committed the crimes, and for the second time it was by failure of the institutions of the rule of law.

Without our dearest ones, homeless and longing to return home, we, the members of the families of the Kosovo new-martyrs, have only one wish – to find the truth about our loved ones, to get it out of the drawers, no matter how painful and difficult it can be.

*Verica Tomanović,  
President of the Association of Families of Kidnapped and  
Missing Persons in Kosovo - Metohija*



# 1998/99.

Among the photos of hundreds of people on the office walls of our Association of Families of Kidnapped and Missing Persons in Kosovo and Metohija is the photo of Milica Radunović (1938) from the village of Dašinovac near Dečani. According to the records of the Association, Milica was the first victim of abduction in the southern Serbian province in the period from 1998 until the end of 2000. Every trace of Milica was lost on 23 April 1998, whereas only a day earlier her daughter Lidija Milenković with her family had visited her parents in Dašinovac.

## The Beginning of Ethnic Cleansing of Kosovo

At the beginning of 1998, the tensions intensified between the Serbian authorities and the so-called Kosovo Liberation Army in the area around Glođane, the birth place of Ramush Haradinaj. The area between Glođane and Dečani was of key strategic importance for the KLA because it connected the headquarters of the KLA terrorists in Glođane and the border with Albania, where from the KLA was supplied with weapons and other accessories during the whole of 1998.

Glođane was also turned into an important KLA recruitment centre for the area of the southern part of Metohija (the Shiptars also call it "Dukađin") and the operation zone of Šalj, Lab and Drenic. The KLA forces kept attacking Serbian police forces in the area of Metohija and the adjacent reception centre for the Serbian refugees from Croatia, which was located in the village of Babaloć.

After 24 March 1998, the KLA terrorists under the command and control of Ramush Haradinaj organized a systematic campaign in order to take control over the area between Glođane and Dečani, especially of the villages of Dubrava, Rznić, Ratiš and Dašinovac, and force the Serbs out of the villages

where they lived. They also continued to attack the refugee centre in Babaloć near Dečani. The Centre had been the target of similar attacks since 1997.

The KLA, including the "Black Eagles" who were under direct command of Idriz Baljaj, terrorized, beat and forced in other ways the Serbian, Romani and Egyptian civilians out of these villages. The civilians who stayed or refused to leave their homes were killed. In the second half of April 1998, the terrorists of the so-called KLA under the command and control of Ramush Haradinaj succeeded to interlock parts of Dečani for about three weeks.

*Milica Radunović from the village of Dašinovac near Dečani was the first recorded victim of abductions in Kosovo and Metohija and reported to the Association of Families of Kidnapped and Missing Persons in Kosovo and Metohija.*

On that day, 21 April 1998, seven other Serbian civilians were killed and abducted, including four women. Vukosava Marković (maiden name Vujošević), born in 1937, and her sister Darinka Kovač (maiden name Vujošević), born in 1932, both of them the Serbs, disappeared from their home in the village of Gornji Ratiš, the municipality of Dečani. The village of Ratiš was situated about three to four kilometres away from Glođane.

Both women were killed by the members of the so-called KLA, and the remains of their bodies were found on 12 September 1998 by the Serbian forensic team near the concrete channel leading to Radonjičko Lake. The autopsy of both corpses indicated gunshot wounds, while multiple bone fractures were substantiated on the corpse of Vukosava Marković.

On the same day, in the village of Gornji Ratiš, Milovan Vlahović (1935) and Milka Vlahović (1933), a married couple, both of Serbian nationality, disappeared. The KLA terrorists forcibly took these two old people away to the KLA headquarters at Glođani. The local Albanians who tried to prevent their abduction were threatened to be killed, too, if they interfered.

Among the first victims was Žarko Spasić, abducted on 14 May 1998. On 22 June, nine workers of the coal mine Belačevac near Obilić were abducted.

The number of abducted in 1998 was about 100 innocent civilians.

The Serbian forensic team conducted an investigation in the vicinity of the Radonjičko Lake channel, on the agricultural farm Economy in Ranić and on the road to the village of Dašinovac. On 12 September 1998, that team found at least 39 bodies or body remains in the area of the Radonjičko Lake channel, six bodies on the agricultural farm Economy and at least three bodies on the way to Dašinovac. The forensic examination of the bodies and remains was performed at the provisional morgue in Đakovica. Several of these bodies or remains were established to belong to Serbian, Romani and Albanian civilians who disappeared in the period from April to the beginning of September 1988 in the area of "Dukađini".

The operations centre of Ramush Haradinaj in his village of Glođane in the municipality of Dečani was situated at about two kilometres from the Radonjičko Lake channel and the agricultural farm Economy, where the bodies and body remains were found, at one of only two small accession roads in the zone. The village of Dašinovac, where three other bodies were found, is only nine kilometres far away. The exact number of buried bodies is unknown, because the body remains were mixed.

Milovan Vlahović was murdered and his remains were found on 12 September 1998 near the concrete wall of the Radonjičko Lake channel. Forensic examination established bone fractures caused by mechanic force. The channel walls showed visible traces of bullets. Milka Vlahović was never

seen alive after the abduction.

Two days later, the Serbs Slobodan Radošević (1943) and his two neighbours Miloš Radunović (1938) and Milica Radunović (1938), who stayed in their homes in the village of Dašinovac, the municipality of Dečani, disappeared. They were forcibly taken away from their homes by the KLA terrorists. After that, the local Serbian newspapers and informative program of the local television broadcasted the KLA announcement with a message to the families of Slobodan Radošević and Miloš Radunović to go down the road near Dečani and collect the bodies of these men. The members of their families did not go to the location for fear.

Among the victims of terrible repressions and physical liquidations by the Albanian extremists were medical experts of Serbian nationality in Kosovo: Genev Stamen, a medical technician, kidnapped on 29 June 1998 in the place of Crnojkevo near Dulj; dr Vasić Josif, killed on 26 February 2000 in Gnjilane; Mikić Svetomir, an agricultural engineer, kidnapped on 21 July 1999 at the Institute of Pathology in Priština. Dr Stanojević Aleksandar, a doctor of the Health Centre in Orahovac, was kidnapped on 17 July 1998 from his workplace together with the medical technician Patrnogić Duško; dr Petković Nebojša, a dentist, was kidnapped on 30 July 1999 on his way to work at the Emergency Medical Service; dr Tošković Đorđe, a gynaecologist, was abducted on 2 June 1999 from his home in Peć; Todorovski Alekandar, a senior student of stomatology, was kidnapped on 25 June 1999 from the workplace at the Emergency Medical Service; Professor dr Tomanović Andrija, a full-time professor of the Faculty of Medicine, Chief of the Surgery Clinic of the Clinical Hospital Centre in Priština, was kidnapped on 24 June 1999 from the workplace at the Surgery Clinic; Šabić Dimitrije, a medical technician, was kidnapped on 16 January 1999 from the workplace at the Clinical Hospital Centre in Priština; Vuksanović Mile, employed at the Hygiene Institute in Priština, was kidnapped on 02 April 1999 in the village of Trn on the way from Uroševac to Štimlje; Pavić Borislav, a medical technician, was kidnapped on 24 July 1999 in Gnjilane.

From the list of forcibly abducted medical workers, the fate of 4 persons is still unknown: Professor Dr Andrija Tomanović, Todorovski Aleksandar, Vuksanović Mile and Mikić Svetomir.

A hellish idea to annihilate the decades-long activity of the highly qualified creative group of university professors, who deserved credit for equality in education of students and doctors of all nationalities and for the achieved high level of modern medicine in Kosovo and Metohija, was accomplished.

In his letter, an appeal, the President of the Serbian Medical Association, Academician Radoje Čolović, wrote: "We are obliged to highlight the exemplary individuals whose personal courage, devotion and philanthropy gave shelter to everyone who needed it, to the individuals whose biographies will be the signpost, who will dissuade future generations from the abyss of international hatred". The letter sent to all government bodies of the Republic of Serbia, international institutions in KiM, representatives of the diplomatic corps, international organizations for human rights, to all who could render "assistance in shedding light on the fates of medical workers".

Ramush Haradinaj was trialled for these fearful massacres; however, he was acquitted of all charges because almost all witnesses had died under inexplicable circumstances.

Forcible abductions in KiM were the form of intimidation which preceded mass internal displacement. A great number of abductions, disappearances and murders of the citizens of different nationalities caused mass internal displacement and the ethnic structure of the exiled resulted in creation of an ethnically clean Albanian territory.

In the period from 23 April 1998 until 23 March 1999, a large-scale violence begun and soon afterwards escalated. Mass abductions and murders were recorded during the summer 1998. They were the cause of armed conflicts between the KLA against police and army members.

After the end of aggression against the SRY, the police and army retreated and the international forces arrived to the territory of KiM. From 11 June 1999 to 27 December 2000, the KLA members were the perpetrators of unprecedented large-scale violence in KiM. The number of abducted and killed civilians kept increasing every day, and under the circumstances of large-scale violence and basic human rights violation, internal displacement of about 250,000 people took place.

From 1998 to the end of 2000, thousands of civilians were abducted and killed in Kosovo and Metohija and these crimes were committed by armed and uniformed Albanians. The Association of Families of Kidnapped and Missing Persons are still seeking for 572 members of the families. Until today, 370 missing persons, whose identity was confirmed on the basis of given blood samples of the cousins and DNA analysis, were buried.

The greatest number of victims, as many as 75 per cent, were either killed or kidnapped after 10 June 1999, namely, after the arrival of the peace-keeping forces in Kosovo and Metohija. All cases of abductions were reported to the international and domestic institutions, their relatives gave blood samples for DNA analysis, but nothing is still known about these ill-fated people.

In most cases the perpetrators of criminal acts and valid witnesses are known, but despite that, there are almost no results either in finding of the missing or in criminal prosecution. The occasional processes end in acquittal of the criminals for various reasons, while many criminal acts performed by the KLA are not even categorized as a war crime.

There is no reconciliation until the KLA members are convicted for their crimes and until all exiled people from Kosovo and Metohija return to their restored homes. Perishment was not caused by the conflicts of the Serbian and Albanian population, but only by the KLA actions. Their aim was creation of an ethnically clean Kosovo and Metohija, contestation of Kosovo and Metohija as the Serbian heritage and an attempt to destroy the ten-century long vertical spiritual endurance of the Serbian nation. Lawlessness was permitted to overrule the law and declaration of a part of Serbia as an independent, self-contained state in the Balkans was enabled despite the UN Security Council Resolution 1244 which guaranteed the borders, security and safety to all citizens at the territory of Kosovo and Metohija.

**On the right: Map of Mass Graves and Responsibility Zone of the KLA Commanders. Source: KFOR, 13 July 1999**





# 2000.

Pursuant to Articles 1, 9 and 10 of the Law on Association of Citizens and Associations, Social Organizations and Political Organizations which are founded on the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Official Gazette of SFRY No. 42/90), the Assembly of the Association of Families of Kidnapped and Missing Persons in Kosovo and Metohija passed a decision on 22 February 2000 on the basis of which the Association of Families of Kidnapped and Missing Persons in Kosovo and Metohija was founded.

## Founding of the Association of Families of Kidnapped and Missing Persons in Kosovo and Metohija

The Association of Families of Kidnapped and Missing Persons in Kosovo and Metohija (hereinafter referred to as the Association) was founded on 14 March 2000 with head office in Belgrade and sub-offices in Niš, Kraljevo, Gračanica, Kosovska Mitrovica and Velika Hoča. Unsuccessful, months-long individual efforts of the families to find their relatives who had disappeared under the circumstances of large-scale violence in Kosovo and Metohija were the reason for foundation of the Association. Kidnapping and disappearances of the members of our families took place everywhere. They were kidnapped in the streets, taken under threat out of their houses and workplaces (hospitals, factories, offices), on the roads (from trains, buses, cars). The first objective after the foundation of the Association was to gather the data about missing persons get information about the circumstances of abductions and make the list of kidnapped and missing persons on the basis of reports of the members of internally displaced families from Kosovo and Metohija, where violence was spreading like fire.

*The Association is a voluntary organization of citizens with the following goals and objectives:*

- Shedding light on the circumstances under which people in Kosovo and Metohija were kidnapped;
- Rendering assistance to the families of missing persons in Kosovo and Metohija;
- Respect, protection and improvement of human rights and liberties;
- Advocacy for respect of the principles of the state of law and rule of law;
- Spreading of the idea and awareness about the need for respect, protection and improvement of human rights and liberties;
- Cooperation with domestic and foreign associations, organizations and societies involved in promotion of the idea and practice of human rights who are compatible with the objectives of the Association;
- Accomplishment of other objectives of interest for promotion of the idea and practice of protection and promotion of human rights, the state of law and rule of law.



Kosovska Mitrovica - Protest of the members of the Association of Families of Kidnapped and Missing Persons in Kosovo and Metohija





Protest of the Association of Families of Kidnapped and Missing Persons in Kosovo and Metohija in front of the Government of the Republic of Serbia in Belgrade



Protest of the Association of Families of Kidnapped and Missing Persons in Kosovo and Metohija in Belgrade



Photo above: Meeting with the representatives of the Coordination Centre for Kosovo and Metohija with the Association members  
Photo down: Mr. Jelić with the First Secretary of the Association Milorad Božanić



# 2001.

It is terrifying when they abduct a man. It is terrifying when you do not know for years where he is. It is terrifying when the family has to search for his grave. It is terrifying that nothing was done for him to be saved or to be found. It is terrifying when you are powerless to help while those with power won't help. It is terrifying to wake up and wonder whose door you are going to knock on that day knowing that help is nowhere to be found.

## Protests without Response of Competent Authorities

Numerous protests organized in 2000 gave no results. The members of the Association of Families of Kidnapped and Missing Persons in Kosovo and Metohija started visiting people who held important functions in hope they could help them.

Promises that they would do their best to find the abducted in 2001 were received at numerous meetings, such as with: Minister Goran Svilanović, The Hague Tribunal Prosecutor Carla Del Ponte, Patrick Gavigan from the Office for Human Rights, at the International Office of Red Cross, ICMP, UNMIK, at the Embassy of Germany in Belgrade with Christian Helbach, and many others.

In May, in front of the Federal Assembly in Belgrade, the petition for release of the kidnapped was signed.

It was followed by talks with Mr. Gavian France, Mrs. Lora Milk and Paul McLemberg, followed by a great number of meetings with the representatives of domestic authorities. Only in October and November, the representatives of the Association of Families of Kidnapped and Missing Persons in Kosovo and Metohija had separate meetings with as many as 19 domestic, foreign and international organizations.



**On the right photo: the President of the Republic of France Mr. Jacques Chirac and Verica Tomanović, President of the Association of Families of Kidnapped and Missing Persons in Kosovo and Metohija at reception party at the Embassy of the Republic of France in Belgrade**





**Delegation of the Association of Families of Kidnapped and Missing Persons in Kosovo and Metohija at the reception of the President of FR Yugoslavia Vojislav Koštunica**

**In the photo below: Delegation of the Association of Families of Kidnapped and Missing Persons in Kosovo and Metohija (Pavle Kostić, Verica Tomanović, Dragana Majstorović and Olivera Budimir) at the reception at the Embassy of France with the President Jacques Chirac**



**On the right photo, from top down, from the left to the right: Representatives of the Association of Families of Kidnapped and Missing Persons in Kosovo and Metohija at one of the meetings with Nebojša Čović; Coordination of Serbian Associations from ex-Yugoslavia; Solicitude for the youngest (children of the victims) has been one of the priorities from the very foundation (1 January 2002), New Year's gift-giving**





# 2002.

The first and the most important issue we have to talk about is finding the abducted persons and delivery of the remains of kidnapped and missing persons in the area of Kosovo and Metohija, which is the foreground task of the Serbian and Albanian population. As long as this issue is unsolved, all other issues will be unsolvable. The stage has been set, and enough time has passed, for talks to start at last about the most difficult problem of both Serbian and Albanian associations of missing and abducted persons.

## Identification of Personal Items of Missing Serbs at Rudari near Kuršumljia

With the view to shedding light on the fate of kidnapped and killed Serbs in Kosovo and Metohija, in April 2002, on the plateau in front of Motel "Rudare" at Rudare, 11 kilometres far from Kuršumljia, 350 clothing items, shoes, personal and other objects of the missing persons found in the period from KFOR arrival until now, were exhibited and put at disposal of the families and relatives to examine.

The purpose of this three-day action, which was organized in cooperation with the Coordination Centre for Kosovo and Metohija, UNMIK, International Red Cross, Red Cross of Serbia and Montenegro, Association of Kidnapped and Missing Persons and Committee for the Missing Persons, was to help the families of the missing persons and forensic medicine experts to identify the victims. Transport to Rudare for the family members and relatives was organized by the Association of Kidnapped and Missing Persons.

Examination of found clothes was organized in groups. First, Rudare was visited by the family members of missing persons from Orahovac and Gračanica as well as the relatives displaced in Niš. Then, arrival of the families from Montenegro, Belgrade, Kosovska Mitrovica and Kral-

jevo was appointed. On the third day, the found items could be seen by the families of missing persons from Bujanovac, Kraljevo and Belgrade. Finally, press conference was held where the results of this action were published.

On the third day of the joint action of the Coordination Centre for Kosovo and Metohija, UNMIK, Association of the Missing, International Red Cross and Red Cross of Serbia and Montenegro, at Rudare near Kuršumljia, the families of kidnapped, missing and killed Serbs and other non-Albanians in Kosovo and Metohija recognized parts of clothes, shoes, personal and other items found along the corpses of about 360 exhumated victims, in 35 cases.

In order to clarify the fates of the missing in Kosovo and Metohija, the families from Kraljevo, Kruševac, Čačak, Užice, Orahovac, Bujanovac, Vranje, Belgrade, Podujevo and other places where they had been displaced visited Rudare.

Milosav Đilas from Priština, denying information according to which his mother Milka Đilas, born in 1937, was identified, says:

- The last time I saw my mother was on 6 June 1999. She was at hos-



**At identification of the loved ones at Rudare near Kuršumljia on the basis of about 350 exhibited clothing and personal articles, shoes and other objects of missing persons found in the period until KFOR arrival**

pital in Priština for treatment. Seventeen days later we found out she had died, but we still have no reliable information about what happened with her body. Numbers from the grave at Dragodan and clothes match, but in order to be sure that it's her, I gave blood for DNA analysis which will help in identification – Milosav explains.

Stana Josifović from Priština is searching for her brother Trajko Stanković, 54 years old, who went missing on 16 August 1999. Stana says:

- That day he left the house in order to collect his pension. He set off from the village of Kojlovice toward Priština and since then every trace of him has been lost. Later, I found out that a neighbour, an Albanian, had threatened him and that some unknown men had beaten him up. When I asked his neighbours the Albanians if he had been killed, they answered me that he was alive but heavily beaten up. There are some indications that these are his clothes. I recognized the trousers. I am sure that shoes are his. Here, I was told that his clothes have an identi-

fication number of the grave at Dragodan, I gave blood and I believe it won't be a problem to identify his body, because after an operation he got a plastic hip.

Milivoje Stolić from Mužičani near Štimlje says that he recognized parts of clothes of his missing brother Slobodan Stolić, a veterinary. Olga Krstić from the village of Donji Ratiš near Dečani, in search for her parents, also says that she recognized parts of clothes of her parents, mother Vilka, born in 1939, and father Milivoje, born in 1929, who had gone missing on 11 July 1999.

From the Association of Missing Serbs in Kosovo and Metohija we hear that during the three-day action the exhibited objects were examined by about 500 members of families and that, until yesterday afternoon, more than 160 of them gave blood for DNA analysis.

We talked with dr Slaviša Dobričanin, a forensic medicine expert, professor of the University in Priština, about the next steps in identification of the missing.





**Meeting with Chief Prosecutor of The Hague Tribunal Mrs. Carla Del Ponte**

“This is only a step in solving the fate of missing persons and after that we have to examine the available documentation, which means data files for every single buried person. Later, we come to exhumation, where we will match the data we have got from the families these days at Rudare with the data from the data files and with what we find on the site”, dr Dobričanin says. “No, this is not identification. This is only a part of what makes the identification procedure, but a very important element.”

As regards the contacts with The Hague investigators, Professor Dobričanin says:

“I contacted them while I was at The Hague. Here, they are taking information from the families about potential suspected persons who abducted their family members. Actually, they are making data files of the Albanians, the KLA members, who committed crimes against the Serbs. It is in the function of bringing the people who made terrible crimes to the Hague Tribunal. I believe that this work will be soon finished. I saw the lists at The Hague and they are doing it seriously and that is why they are here. Carla Del Ponte also promised to work fast – explains dr Dobričanin.

# 2003.

**I**f we keep silent and hide the truth about what happened, we take side of the criminals, protecting their bloody hands, whoever they are. Neither party in the conflict was faultless. Innocent people were killed on both sides. The most monstrous of all is when the victims are children. No one has to right to arbitrarily tailor the facts on racial, national or religious basis (taken from the letter of Dragica Majstorović, mother of the kidnapped boy Ivan Majstorović).

## Letter of the Mother of Abducted Ivan Majstorović to Olara Otunnu (UNICEF)

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I address you on behalf of all Serbian parents whose children were kidnapped, disappeared or killed during and after the conflicts in Kosovo (1998-2004).

Reading your web pages and internet presentations, we realized with great regrets that either you knew nothing about our tragedy or our tragedy was ignored on purpose. The lives of our Serbian children are nothing less valuable than the lives of any other child of different nationality, because all children are equal and have the right to life.

The rights of our children are endangered because Serbian children in Kosovo are still fired at, our children are the moving targets, they cannot go

freely to school and they cannot play safely and grow up in their own country. We still have abduction attempts. Why, dear Ladies and Gentlemen?

Have you ever heard of burnt Serbian babies in Prizren, of burnt children's bodies and bodies of their parents at Klečak, of illegal prisons in Kosovo and Albania where our children were detained, of murders of Serbian children in Goraždevac, of the rapes of our girls across Kosovo? The evidence exists – their dead bodies and several survivors with terrible traumas who can testify about it. With regrets we have to conclude that a great number of abductions took place after the arrival of the UN Peacekeeping Forces and that we and our children became the victims believing in the protection and guarantees given by the UN.

## Shedding Light on the Fates of Missing Persons Is the Most Sensitive Issue in Kosovo

Belgrade, 15 May 2003 – Ombudsperson for Kosovo and Metohija Marek Antoni Nowicki stated today in Belgrade that shedding light on the fates of abducted and missing persons in Kosovo and Metohija was in the range of most

sensitive issues in solving human rights in the Province.

After the talks with the members of the Association of Families of Kidnapped and Missing Serbs in Kosovo and Metohija, Nowicki said that the Ombudsper-



son Institution could not directly affect the search for the missing, but that it was his right to always insist on this topic publicly so that the competent institutions would do their job properly, Beta News Agency informs.

He said that the next objective was urgent shedding light on the fates of

missing persons and bringing to justice all those responsible for the worst crimes. Nowicki added that a joint meeting of the Associations of Missing and Kidnapped Persons in Kosovo-Metohija regardless of ethnicity was appointed for the beginning of June in Priština.

## New Request for Elucidation of the Fates of Missing Persons in Kosovo

Priština, 5 June 2003 – The Association of Families of Missing and Kidnapped Persons in Kosovo and Metohija who live in central Serbia sent a request to UNMIK, KFOR, the Kosovo Committee for Protection of Human Rights and Freedoms and the Ombudsperson for Kosovo-Metohija to make additional efforts in finding 1,300 of abducted and missing persons, predominantly the Serbs and other non-Albanians.

The Association filed the request to the Kosovo and Metohija Ombudsperson Marek Nowicki demanding that the UNMIK Chief Michael Steiner and KFOR commander General Fabio Mini attend the talks, but they did not appear.

The Association coordinator Simo Spasić said there was a lot of evidence about missing persons during the conflicts in Kosovo in 1998 and

1999, as well as after the arrival of KFOR in 1999. The documentation of crimes and genocide committed over the members of our families that we possess should be in the hands of UNMIK police and particularly of The Hague Tribunal, Spasić emphasized.

President of the Kosovo Committee for Protection of Human Rights and Liberties Pajazit Nushi said during the meeting with the representatives of the Kosovo Serbs that in the course of war conflicts in the Province his two grandsons had gone missing, too, and that he expected shedding light on their fates. In his opinion, the UNMIK Commission on Missing Persons does not make sufficient efforts in order to elucidate the fates on missing persons regardless of their ethnicity.

## Mortal Remains of Four Serbs Handed Over

Merdare, 18 September 2003 – Today, at Gate 3 of the Merdare administrative border crossing in the direction of Kosovo and Metohija, mortal remains of four Serbs killed in Kosovo and Metohija were handed over to the families.

The families took over the bodies of Jovan Lazarević (87) kidnapped in Đakovica, Petar Đurić (60), killed in his house in Istok, Gordana

Jovanović (48), killed together with her husband in Prizren, and Radivoje Drakulović (67), also killed in Prizren.

According to data of the Coordination Centre for Kosovo-Metohija, totally 209 bodies were exhumed and 80 identified on the territory of the Province until August this year.



**The Association of Families of Missing and Kidnapped Persons in Kosovo and Metohija organized a multi-day tour of the monasteries in Serbia and Montenegro for the family members of kidnapped and missing persons with the aim at psychological support**



## 40 Bodies Exhumated from Dragodan II Cemetery in Priština

Priština-Kuršumlja, 19 June 2003 – Forensic experts of the Exhumation and Identification Centre at the Coordination Centre for Kosovo-Metohija, in cooperation with UNMIK exhumed 40 bodies from Dragodan II Cemetery in Priština in the past two days, said the Head of the Exhumation and Identification Centre dr Slaviša Dobričanin.

According to Dobričanin, mortal remains of the Serbs, ethnic Albanians and Romani included eight babies, the Beta news agency reported.

The bodies, exhumated from Dragodan II Cemetery in Priština, were transported to Orahovac Autopsy Centre where they would be identified and returned to their families.

Dobričanin also announced that after exhumation of mortal remains from Dragodan II Cemetery, the bodies from the Orthodox cemetery in Đakovica would be also exhumated, adding that it had to wait until the terrain around that cemetery was demined.

## Marking of 30 August – International Day of the Disappeared

Association of Families of Missing and Kidnapped Persons in Kosovo-Metohija marked 30 August – the International Day of the Disappeared. The member of the Association of Families of Kidnapped and Missing Persons in Kosovo-Metohija Verica Tomanović said in front of the members and citizens gathered on the Republic Square in Belgrade that, according to the data of this Association, 1,303 persons disappeared

According to her, out of that number 150 persons were killed on the spot, 364 were released or escaped, and 789 persons were missing. Mrs. Tomanović emphasized that the families of the missing and kidnapped demanded that the archives and dossiers were opened and the kidnappers named and found. She added that in August a delegation of that Association together with the representatives of Serbian Associations from former Yugoslavia had visited the USA where they had testified at the Congress under approval of the President of the Helsinki Committee for Human

Rights of the USA Congress Christopher Smith.

The President of the Kosovo Committee for Human Rights Protection Pazit Nuši said that failure to shed the light on the fates of the missing persons affected the return of the internally displaced and increase of the crime rate in Kosovo. He insisted that the issue of the fates of missing persons had to be prioritized in the announced talks between Belgrade and Priština.

The International Human Rights Association Amnesty International expressed their concerns because, even four years after the end of conflicts in Kosovo, more than four thousand persons were still regarded as missing, whereas nobody responsible for their fates was brought to justice.

This organization commended the progress that the UNMIK Office on Missing Persons and Forensics made this year in discovering the fates of missing persons as well as the progress made in Serbia in terms of exhumations.

**Page on the right: Representatives of Serbian Associations from ex-Yugoslavia visiting the USA Ambassador William Montgomery in Belgrade: from left to right above: Olgica Božanić, Vlado Šašo, Mirjana Božin, William Montgomery, Radivoje Simović, Gordana Jakšić, Čedo Marić, Dragana Đukić; below: Biljana Jović (translator), Dragana Majstorović and Verica Tomanović; At Human Rights Protection Department, at the meeting with Mr. Marek Nowicki in Priština; With Congressman Christopher Smith together with the FRY Ambassador Ivan Vujačić; At Helsinki Committee for Human Rights; Testimony in front of the Helsinki Committee for Human Rights in the USA Congress: Gordana Jakšić, Čedomir Marić, Olgica Božanić and Verica Tomanović; Belgrade, International Day of the Disappeared**





# 2004.

In the period from 16 November 2000 to 5 April 2004, the Association held, according to the evidence of the activists, more than 170 meetings, protests and other forms of involvement. Until June 2004, 278 bodies were exhumated and subjected to autopsy. Identification of 104 cases was conducted and 91 bodies were handed over to the families. In addition, three bodies at Košare were identified. The mortal remains were delivered to the families of the victims.

## Four Years of Work of the Association of Kidnapped and Missing Persons in K&M

“The Association was founded in March 2000 in hope that the families find out the truth more easily. After months of individual, vain attempts to find the people who had been kidnapped from their houses, workplaces, hospitals, streets and cars, the families of the abducted on the territory of Kosmet established their Association. The only objective of this non-governmental organization is the truth. The desire to find the truth about the fates of kidnapped family members through the Association which would make influence on the government institutions and all competent international organizations to accelerate the process of search for the disappeared and achieve some results the soonest possible”, the President Verica Tomanović said.

After all these years we still wonder how it was possible that ten miners from the surface mine Belačevac near Priština went missing

(22.06.1998), that in the villages of Retimlje and Opteruša innocent civilians were kidnapped on 18 July 1998, that the whole families disappeared: Šutaković and Pantović from Đakovica, Sekulić, Rajković and Vasić from Priština, Šljivić and Đukanović from Prizren; in every city at least one married couple, or mother and son, father and son, two brothers, went missing.

After arrival of the peacekeeping forces to Kosovo-Metohija, the abductions were an instrument of pressure for exile and creation of ethnically clean Albanian Kosovo. The exodus of the Serbs and non-Albanians was accompanied by monstrous crimes.

What the members of the Association demand from the competent authorities is to open the archives, to name the kidnappers and, the most vital of all, to accomplish the process of solving the fates of all abducted and missing persons in Kosmet.

**On the right: At the meeting with Bajram Redžepi in Priština; Delegation of the Association of Families of Kidnapped and Missing Persons in Kosovo-Metohija in the visit to His Holiness Patriarch Pavle**

## Petition for Freedom: *Life or Bones*

The Association of Families of Missing and Kidnapped Persons in Kosovo-Metohija in the period 1998-2001 started this petition as a humanitarian action in order to shed light on the fates of the abducted and missing persons from our list.

In this way we inform and remind all those who know that since 1998 to date our families do not have exact address of their loved ones who were abducted by known persons, armed and uniformed Albanians who called themselves the KLA and who were, after arrival of the peacekeeping forces on the territory of Kosovo and Metohija, legalized into the Kosovo Protection Corps (KPC).

We remind once again that there are minor children, women, old people and grown-ups among the abducted. If you sign, you participate in the fight for the truth about those abducted for no reason.

When you sign, remember that you might have been abducted, too.

As long as they are abducted, none of us is free. Your signature is the key to freedom for all. For those who are alive and who come back home to their families, we will pardon the crime. For those who were killed, let us never forget, but let us find their bones because there are too many unknown graves.

We seek for all of them, which means not only for the Serbs but also for the Muslims, Romani, Turks, Gorani, Bulgarians, Albanians, Macedonians. Help us endure in this multi-national, multi-confessional, multi-ethnic day-and-night fight.

Let the justice attain the criminals and your signature be the accusation.





## The First Issue of *Magazin Abducted Truth* Published

We are very sad that there exists a reason for publishing of this informative magazine which will be issued quarterly. The evil that befell on us all and the sixth anniversary of, for many of us, unsuccessful fight to find out what happened with our abducted or missing loved ones or relatives aroused us to notify the public audience about our misery, sorrow and pain.

All previous endeavours to start a concrete fight in order to solve the fate of the kidnapped and disappeared obviously did not produce any tangible results. We knocked on many doors and we spared a lot of words explaining what had happened at Kosovo and Metohija. But, except for solitary cases of occasional finding of mortal remains, there is no news about the people who disappeared without a trace. More than 1,300 families are desperate because as many men, women and children disappeared. That is exactly the reason why we have started this magazin

## Silence Is the Sin

Representatives of all five associations of families of kidnapped and missing persons in the wars waged on the territories of the former Yugoslavia sent a joint appeal to our and international community saying that the families of missing persons should not become the victims of wrong politics of current governments such as their missing loved ones once were the victims of wrong politics of the past governments. Marking the International Day of the Disappeared, at the press conference, they invited the authorities to get involved more actively in solving the issue of the disappeared and identify the unidentified victims of ethnic conflicts in the former Yugoslavia. "It is high time for unidentified victims to finally get the names", it was said on the occasion.

President of the Association of Parents and Families of the Arrested Radivoje Simović said that the families of missing persons would like to remind again that the fate of their loved ones was not elucidated yet

- to record everything related to this enormous tragedy of kidnapped and missing persons and their families, and of our nation, too.

In this way, we want to leave a written trace and you, dear friends and fellow sufferers, we beg to actively join in the preparation of every issue and contribute with your letters, children's works, suggestions and other contributions, to the better and better quality of this magazine.

Conspiracy of silence prevents the families from finding the truth while the media dedicate less and less space to this tragedy to which mainly poor people are exposed, the people who hardly have money for the basic needs.

Our purpose is to find the truth the soonest possible. We shall provide objective information about everything from this domain and strengthen cooperation with all who can help in any way.

and that they had the right to find out the truth.

"We want to know who is responsible for delay in exhumation and identification and why our government does not show any interest in solving this issue. The first exhumations were performed in September last year. The Croatian government is not cooperative when it comes to taking blood for DNA analysis, but if the identification develops at this rate, many will not live to find the fate of their loved ones", Simović concluded.

"The only thing we ask for is to replace the sign "NN" with the name and surname of the victim. In Croatia, there are countless unregistered and hidden graves, because out of 7,000 killed and missing people, 500 persons were exhumated and only about 200 were identified", said Čedo Marić, the President of the Association of Families of Missing Persons "Tear" from Krajina. He pointed out that only four graves in Knin, Gračac,



Marking the International Day of the Disappeared; The Republic Square, Belgrade, 30 August 2004

Korenica and the foot of Velebit had been exhumated. Additional 24 registered graves were waiting for exhumation.

Ružica Spasić, the President of the Association of Families of Missing and Forcibly Detained Persons from Vukovar emphasized that, unlike the others, the Serbs in Croatia did not have security conditions to mark this day and express their sorrow and sadness for the loss of their loved ones.

President of the Association of Kidnapped and Missing Persons in Kosovo-Metohija Verica Tomanović pointed out again that the agony of mothers, sisters, brothers, children, fathers and relatives in general was weighed in immeasurable pain and tears. "It is sad that the victims and perpetrators are known and nothing is done to bring them to justice. On the contrary, there is a silence about it. And that is the reason why we con-

tinue to put questions to the competent authorities."

Simo Spasić, the President of the Association of Families of Kidnapped and Killed Serbs in Kosmet, concluded that since the beginning of ethnic conflicts on the territory of Kosovo and Metohija 1,500 civilians, soldiers and police officers had been killed and 789 were registered as missing. "The problem of exhumations is one of the key reasons why more details about missing persons in the conflicts are not available, as well as absence of security on these locations which are known to be full of bodies, the bodies which still have no names."

At the press conference, our magazine "Abducted Truth" was also promoted. It was said that it represented a kind of tribute to missing and killed persons in Kosovo and Metohija.



## Solicitude for the Families

Visits, friendship and realization of the plan of social card monitoring are the priority tasks in rendering assistance to the families.

“The primary objective of the Association of Families of Missing and Kidnapped Persons in Kosovo and Metohija, Office in Kraljevo, and also of all other offices, is finding of kidnapped and missing persons. However, as discovering the truth about their fates does not depend on the coordinator Brankca Antić and members of the families of the Association, in expectation of the truth, they spend time organizing the actions for mutual assistance. It began by making social cards of each family in order to find out how they lived and what kind of assistance they needed. Accordingly, they were provided with clothes, foodstuff and sanitary items, as well as firewood for the winter”, Brankica Antić emphasizes.

“Daily visits to the families whose loved ones were abducted are our



**Representatives of the Association of Families of Kidnapped and Missing Persons met on 15 September at the head office of UMNİK in Belgrade with the international prosecutors Robert Baldini, Jose Pablo Barajbar and Krasimir Nikolov.**

permanent task. Furthermore, we keep on gathering new details in order to complete the dossiers about the kidnapped and disappeared persons; we inform the families about every piece of news we find out in connection with their loved ones. It is our obligation to render them the corresponding assistance and prepare a family to go for identification. In case of positive identification, we assume the obligation to organize the funeral.

We keep on collecting information about unregistered graves and we were involved in presentation of the snapshots of wardrobe and items that were excavated from four locations of mass graves at Kosmet”.

Coordinator of the Kraljevo office says that future activities of the members of this Association will include collecting and updating of the database on kidnapped and missing persons, completing of the data about family members of kidnapped and missing persons in collective



**Regular annual Assembly**

and individual accommodations as well as keeping the families informed by mail and in direct contacts. In future, they will work at promotion of cooperation with ICRC, Red Cross of Serbia and Montenegro

## We Can and We Must Find the Truth

### *International Conference on Missing Persons on the Territory of Former Yugoslavia*

The origin of majority problems begins and ends with the word “politics”, and politicization of this issue is equal to the crime itself – this was said at the conference held in Opatia. All delegations from the territories of former Yugoslavia attended and agreed with the conclusion that the issue of kidnapped and missing persons is equal to humanitarian disaster and civilization catastrophe.

It is the only and real aspect from which this issue can be observed and evaluated. The delegation of the Association of Families of Missing and Kidnapped Persons in Kosovo and Metohija underlined that their requests were communicated to all relevant government and international institutions. According to the Association’s President Verica Tomanović, the requests refer in the first place to opening of the archives, ascertainment

and other humanitarian organizations in solving the fates of the disappeared, but also the problems of their families.

and return of the documentation collected by KFOR and other non-governmental organizations, gathered at Kosmet from 1999 to 2000 and taken to mother countries.

Knowledge that mass and individual graves at Kosovo were destroyed in order to exterminate the evidence was brought to the conference attention. An appeal to open all archives was addressed to both domestic and international institutions and other non-governmental organizations. Acceleration of the processes of exhumation, identification and delivery of the bodies of kidnapped and killed persons, acceleration of investigation of the objects of missing persons and data systematization were demanded.

## Five-Year Long Search Finished

At the administrative border with Kosovo and Metohija, on 8 October this year, mortal remains of Milica Vekić from Đakovaica and Bardulja Jahja from Priština were handed over to the families Vekić and Jahja. They had been killed by the Albanian terrorists in 1999, but they were exhumated only recently. The mortal remains of Milica Vekić were found at the Đakovica Cemetery and Bardulja Jahja was at Dragodan,

a hill near Priština, where mass grave is located with more than two hundred Serbs and non-Albanians who were killed before and after arrival of the Peacekeeping Forces to Kosmet.

After identification, the bodies of Milica Vekić and Bardulja Jahja were handed over to the families and buried in Užice and Belgrade respectively, in presence of the relatives and friends.





**Delegation of the Association at the meeting with the Mayor of Belgrade, Mrs. Radmila Hrustanović**  
**From left to right: Refik Omeragić, Krunislava Baljošević, Radmila Hrustanović, Olgica Božanić, and Dragica Majstorović**

**Protest in front of UNMIK office in Belgrade**



# 2005.

It is frightening but, unfortunately, true that pits appear as an inevitable evil in the Golgotha of the Serbs. Just as we thought they are a far and ugly past, there they appear, to our misfortune, again, with a decade's distance. This time, they are not Pribilovci, Jadovno or some other execution site of the Serbs in Croatia. This time it is Volujak in Kosovo and Metohija, a pit where the lives of peaceful peasants from Orahovac neighbourhood were terminated in the most monstrous way. In addition to the pits, there emerged a mass grave in Mališevo, nothing less fearful; it was only easier to get to it. The Serbs were tortured, beaten up and killed in a manner unimaginable to a normal human mind. It is incredible that there exist people with minds so darkened by hatred that erodes them, who are able, at the end of the 20th century, to kill people, civilians, children and peaceful peasants, only because they do not belong to the same religion and nation. When thinking about misdeeds of such people, we inevitably compare people and beasts. The first ones are reasonable beings, the latter are not. But animals never hurt their own species. It is terrible that these peasants finished their lives in such a way, that their bones are mixed with those of animals; that they were covered with waste from the nearby Albanian villages.

## Consent of Serbian and Albanian Sides: the List of Missing Persons Accepted

At the meeting of the Working Group on Missing Persons held in Belgrade, representatives of both Serbian and Albanian side agreed to validate for future work the list of the International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) which recorded 3,000 persons who disappeared in Kosovo and Metohija from January 1998 to December 2000.

Francois Chamme, Head of ICRC delegation for Southeast Europe, expressed his satisfaction with the achieved agreement pointing out that ICRC "expects results and concrete progress". "It is very important we held a meeting after a yearlong dead lock. It is a step which will bring elucidation to thousands of families who are still waiting for news about the missing members of their families".

After conversation with family members of missing persons, Mr. Chamme warned that it was not a definite list and that the data will

be checked "on the fly" and compared with those possessed by the Associations of Families of Missing Persons. "We have to be satisfied with the meeting because this is an important part of the dialogue between Belgrade and Priština". The ICRC's List contains 2,960 missing persons.

The Albanian delegation, which consisted of pathologist Arsim Grđaliu and political counsellor of the previous Prime Minister of Kosovo Nedmedin Spahiu, was lead by Ragip Zekoli. The state delegation, headed by Veljko Odalović, President of the Committee for Kosovo and Metohija of the Parliament of Serbia and Montenegro, consisted of Colonel Gvozden Gagić and forensic expert Prof. dr. Slaviša Dobričanin. The meeting was attended by UNMIK representative Thomas Monegen and representatives of the families of kidnapped and missing persons from Belgrade and Priština.





Exhumations in the cave near the Village of Volujak

## Mass Grave Found in the Cave Near the Village of Volujak

*Serbian victims lie in the grave found on 10 April. There are doubts they had been thrown alive into the 30-meter deep abyss.*

Although it had been found a week earlier, the UNMIK police disclosed only on 18 April that they had found a mass grave site near Volujak, ten kilometres south of Klina in Metohija, where the victims were “non-Albanians”, as they first explained. They are most likely the Serbian victims kidnapped by the Albanian terrorists as long ago as 1998, brought there and thrown into the abyss after horrible torture.

The mass grave is located in the region where the terrorists of the

KLA were the most notorious and only 10 kilometres far from Dragobilje where the Albanian terrorists had their headquarters. The region is in the district “Dukađini”.

According to the first, still scarce findings announced by the UNMIK investigation unit, the found mortal remains most probably belong to people from the Orahovac neighbourhood.

- Research and excavations from the pit will take minimum two weeks

longer. This pit reminds of the pits in Croatia where the Serbs were killed during the Second World War or the last war. This is a fearful sight and it is the most notorious mass grave of the Serbs ever found at Kosovo and Metohija up to date. The victims were thrown into a 30-meter deep abyss and then covered with sand and stones poured from the trucks on the pit bank. At this moment, many families who have kidnapped and missing loved ones need to come and give blood so that we can start DNA-led identification immediately – said dr Slaviša Dobričanin, a member of the Serbian team for exhumation and identification of the bodies of the victims in Kosovo and Metohija.

Serbian grave in Volujak was visited on several occasions by the Head of UNMIK Office for Missing Persons Jose Pablo Barajbar, who said that DNA analysis would establish who the victims were, although there were reasonable doubts that the victims were the Serbs.

- So far, UNMIK and KFOR police forces have inspected about 1,000 locations in Kosovo and Metohija which were designated as the camps for Serbs. Until now, 144 camps were found where the Serbs were detained. They were in private houses, cellars, companies and sports facilities. However, it has been unknown yet what had happened with so many victims. In many cases, perpetrators of kidnappings, abductions

and murders are known, but without witnesses and evidence almost nothing can be done in the court – says Head of the Central Criminal Investigation Unit of UNMIK police forces in Priština, Malcolm Stark.

In Kosovo and Metohija, there are several teams of the UN police who work in the field on finding of graves of killed persons and their identification. For the third year The Hague Tribunal investigators have been working at finding of the criminals.

The teams who work in the field have so far exhumated more than 800 Serbs at several locations in the Province, who were later buried under the sign “NN” at several cemeteries in Kosmet. The greatest number of the victims is buried at the cemetery at Suva Reka, about 200 persons, whereas about 60 with sign “NN” were buried at the Priština cemetery. In addition to the “NN” sign and number, the municipality where the victims were found was also denominated.

Considering that nothing is still known about the fates of a great number of kidnapped and killed Serbs, there are doubts that many other mass graves exist in Kosovo and Metohija and in Albania.

## Shot and Thrown into the Pit

*Dr Slaviša Dobričanin*

At the execution site Volujak near Klina, the sight is more than terrifying. Human bones mixed with trash, part of old cars, bones of dead cattle, waste thrown into the pit in order to hide the truth. Dr Slaviša Dobričanin says about what he saw:

- The cliff over the pit Volujak, where they may have been alive when thrown down into the abyss or shot there on the spot or brought dead and thrown down, is 30 meters high. Parts of the bodies were found at the very entrance into the cave, so there is a high probability that 13 scattered skeletons are just a part of the remains of those who had been killed there.

Stream torrents which have been flooding the pits and caves of the former mine Volujak this spring belched out parts of 13 human skeletons to the surface. This information was reported to UNMIK by those who did not want to hide the crimes over the Serbs, although they had been committed by their compatriots. Investigation has to establish if and how many victims there are in this 1,000 meters long pit. All these years after the war in 1999, this was the place where trash, old cars and dead cattle have been thrown, so the bones of men and animals are mixed. The forensic experts engaged by UNMIK will have a lot of work to do at this location.





**Delivery of mortal remains found on the territory of Kosovo –Metohija, Merdare**

**Photo on the left: Orlovača Cemetery, plot no. 1, Belgrade. Twenty-six monuments were erected to preserve the memory of those who were found in mass graves Volujak and Mališevo**

UNMIK suggested that Serbian forensic experts would be involved in the analysis only at the beginning of next month, when parts of the bodies were transported into the International Forensic Centre in Mališevo for post mortem. However, the process of victims' identification will take a lot of time. All assumptions indicate to the likelihood that the bodies of the victims can be at the depth of half a kilometre, so that the investigators who work under extremely adverse weather conditions and, due to many layers of trash, under generally difficult conditions, will need more time than what is presumed now. DNA analysis will be performed in Tuzla.

There are a lot of ambiguities in the whole case. The Albanian media in Priština have only briefly reported it, while some have ignored it - just like a coroner in Peć who, when five years ago an Albanian brought him a bone that his child had found, covered it all up. The Serbs, particularly those who are searching for their missing loved ones, feel a growing misgiving that their loved ones had died at this execution site.

## Excavations of the Mass Grave near Mališevo

### *The Serbs who were killed in 1998*

The UNMIK Public Relations Officer Remi Durlo said that the representatives of UNMIK's Office for Missing Persons and forensic experts found mortal remains of 10 persons in the mass grave near Mališevo. They are assumed to be the Serbs.

In the joint statement to Tanjug and Contact Plus Radio from Mitrovica, Durlo said that he supposed these were mortal remains of the Serbs who had disappeared in 1998 and pointed out that some of them had had their arms tied on the back.

## Killed or Buried Alive

### *Exhumations near Mališevo*

The Serbian media at Kosmet broadcasted the statement of an anonymous source from the international mission that 13 bodies were excavated in the mass grave near Mališevo or, more precisely, behind the local Medical Centre. Some of the bodies remained almost whole with their arms tied with wire. If they were tortured, shot or excruciated and buried half-alive is still unspecified. The answer will be provided by the forensic medicine experts from the International Forensic Centre which operates near the place where the victims were found.

"According to the first findings, the bodies in the grave belong to the Kosovo Serbs killed in 1998. Up to date, 13 bodies were exhumated. Judging by the clothes on the corpses, they are men", said Jose Pablo Barajbar, the Head of UNMIK's Office for Missing Persons in Priština.

The new execution site of the Serbs, one out of forty found at Kosmet, was visited by the Serbian experts: Professor Slaviša Dobričanin, a forensic expert, Dragoljub Stanković, Deputy Public Prosecutor, and Gvozden Gagić, President of the Committee for Missing Persons of the Council of Ministers and Coordination Centre, who stated that this grave was found only half a kilometre away from Mališevo, in close vicinity of the

The UNMIK Public Relations Officer added that excavation at the location in Mališevo should be finished soon and that, according to the information he had, all found bodies were still there as only one body had been exhumated.

Durlo could not say how many bodies could still be in the grave near Mališevo, but he indicated that excavations at this locality would continue.

Health Centre.

"UNMIK started excavation of corpses buried in the pit which had been dug out for this purpose. It's too early to talk about the details because the excavation will probably last a few weeks longer. Ten to fifteen bodies are supposed to be in the grave", Gagić stated.

All mortal remains will be transported into the nearby International Forensics Centre. Identification of the bodies will be much faster than of those found in the Volujak pit, some thirty kilometres to the west, near Klina. Definite number of killed Serbs in that pit was 22. There were several women in the grave, too. Unlike that location, which was only mentioned by the Albanian media, the pit near Mališevo was reported in greater detail by electronic media, noting that excavation of "killed civilians is continued", without being specific about the place where they might have been from.

At the same time, an investigation of another grave located in the area of Drenica in Metohija, where the KLA had the biggest stronghold in Kosmet, is beginning.





The American marines provide security while members of the forensic experts' team of Canadian police examine the grave

## Finding Graves at Kosmet Means Political Preparations for Standards

Some time ago, at the administrative border crossing of Merdare, the Head of UNMIK Jose Pablo Barajbar said that there were no living persons among the kidnapped Serbs and Albanians, thus publicly announcing this official UNMIK's attitude for the first time.

"Only the missing or kidnapped persons who we found, identified and handed over to their families shall be deemed dead, while all the others are still potentially alive. We do not have the right to instil false hope to the families of kidnapped and missing persons, but we cannot deny them the right to hope. Our job is not to give forecasts, but to deliver the bodies after identification of the victims and search for the others", said Gvozden Gagić, the President of the Council of Ministers for Missing and Kidnapped Persons of Serbia and Montenegro, in reply to the Barajbar's statement and announced a more dynamic phase as regards identifications and exhumation of the bodies of Serbs and non-Albanians in Kosovo and Metohija.

"As concerns exhumation and identification of the bodies of the Serbs and non-Albanians in Kosovo and Metohija, we are now beginning a more dynamic phase. Recently, in a relatively short time, two mass graves have been found in Kosmet with 37 bodies altogether and I think this should

not be attributed to accident. The reason for recent finding of mass graves in Kosmet makes an integral part of political preparations for the standards and readiness of UNMIK for a more intensive cooperation. I think that these locations could have been found much earlier, but UNMIK wanted to show the proof of progress in this field", Gagić pointed out and explained that cooperation with UNMIK's Office has developed relatively well, but there was a lack of more active involvement of the institutions and individuals from Kosovo and Metohija.

"With UNMIK we signed three protocols on cooperation (in 2001) which did not give any concrete results, but at the moment we have no information if the representatives of the temporary institutions take any active part in this process. That is why working groups were formed within the scope of the Belgrade-Priština dialogue so that the process would develop on both sides without any political pretensions, since this process should be treated only as a humanitarian issue", Gvozden Gagić said adding that it is in the interest of all to solve the issue of missing persons, or at least of those who are dead, as soon as possible, because it is in the interest of those who are searching for their missing loved ones.



"I think that these locations could have been found much earlier, but it was UNMIK's intention to show the proof of progress in this field", said Gvozden Gagić, President of the Council of Ministers for Missing and Kidnapped Persons of Serbia and Montenegro, talking about the process of elucidation of their fates and cooperation with UNMIK



# 2006.

Most of the families of kidnapped and missing persons during the pogrom of the Serbian people were left without their household, bread-winner or head of family. Those were the men, who used to work, earn their living decently and, of course, pay for social and pension insurance. When they were separated from their families, relatives and friends in the most brutal way, taken to illegal casemates across Kosovo and Metohija, killed and buried as unknown persons with a number, even more difficult days came for their families. Relatives of a number of kidnapped and missing persons found out their fate but did not have a chance to get their bodies, so that their nightmare continued. And when eventually the competent authorities did their duty, handed the bodies over to them, and they duly buried their loved ones observing the customs, the problems with the administration arise.

## Mortal Remains of 30 Persons Identified

Until the end of April but not later than beginning of May, the families of kidnapped and missing persons from Kosovo and Metohija in 1998 will receive identified mortal remains of their loved ones found in the Volujak pit and in Mališevo. According to the official information, there are 20 persons from Volujak and 10 from Mališevo. However, it

may be expected that six more persons will be identified from the subsequently delivered bone samples. In all cases, the families expressed their wish to have a joint funeral. The funeral will take place most probably at the Belgrade's Cemetery Orlovača.

## Legal Status of the Families to Be Established

Despite a lot of criticism addressed to the International Commission on Missing Persons, we think that the Commission gave an exceptional contribution in the expert part of DNA-led identification as its basic task, not to mention the contribution to the families of missing persons by rendering them psycho-social support through the Association of Families of Missing Persons.

Having in mind that the conference in Belgrade was organized primarily in

order to provide part of the answers to many questions of the families of missing persons, including some important status issues of the family members of missing persons, it is important to point out that on the territory of Serbia and Montenegro a broad initiative was launched for harmonization of regulations and passing of new legal acts so that the families' social, economic and legal status is facilitated when their pain cannot be alleviated.

## Political Will is Crucial

*Director of the International Commission of Missing Persons Catherine Bomberger visited Belgrade at the end of January*

According to Catherine Bomberger, the Head of Mission of the International Commission of Missing Persons (ICMP) which is conducting the process of exhumation, examination and identification of mortal remains in a contemporary scientific method, it can be expected that, in cooperation with state institutions, the fate of the majority of missing persons will be elucidated until the end of 2007.

- I don't think that in the future every family who lost a loved one will find out where he was killed and where he rested. It is an unreal expectation having in mind that even today, after more than half a century, we find the victims from the Second World War – Catherine Bomberger stated.

Nevertheless, as she said on the occasion of her recent visit to Belgrade when she met representatives of competent republic and federal ministries, the process of identification of the victims and taking over by the families in Bosnia and Herzegovina of the victims from Kosovo and Metohija, is in the final phase.

Director of the International Commission on Missing Persons (ICMP) Catherine Bomberger estimated that Serbia achieved a significant progress in solving the fates of missing persons in armed conflicts and that the identification process of the remains which had been exhumated on the territory of Serbia was coming to an end. – It can be measured by the number of exhumations performed in regard to the persons who went missing during the conflict in Croatia and Kosovo – Bomberger said, specifying that in Serbia 300 bodies were exhumated in connection with the conflict in Croatia and about 800 mortal remains in connection with the conflict in Kosovo.

- Tests performed by means of DNA analysis enable establishing of the final number and identity of the victims, which is important not only for their families but also for the truth and justice and reconciliation process in the region – Bomberger said.

She stated that ICMP, an inter-governmental organization with registered office in Sarajevo, has been rendering assistance to Serbia ever since 1996, when the fate of missing persons from the conflicts in the period from 1991



**Catherine Bomberger found the greatest number of missing persons in war conflicts. She found as many as 70 per cent of missing persons in the Balkans. She dedicated her life to their finding**

to 1995 was solved, and that later the aid was extended to the persons who disappeared during the conflict in Kosovo.

- Cooperation in regard of both issues was slow for a very long time, especially in regard of the conflict in Croatia, but the crucial moment were democratic changes in Serbia in October 2000, Bomberger said.



## Breaking the Wall of Silence

### *Protests of the families of kidnapped and missing persons in front of the Government of the Republic of Serbia*

"More than two thousand Serbs were killed in Kosmet and nothing is known about the missing persons. We have come to ask Carla Del Ponte when the Albanian criminals will be punished for a great number of kidnapped and killed persons in Kosmet. From The Hague they have sent us a message that all missing persons are dead, but why don't they hand over the bodies and interrupt this immense agony in which we live", was said during the protest of the families of kidnapped and missing persons.

Among the others, forty members of families of kidnapped and killed persons from Prokuplje came in front of the Government building to express their dissatisfaction because the fates of their loved ones had not been elucidated yet. Snežana Zdravković from Devet Jugovića, who was displaced with her family to Prokuplje, says that for years she has been searching for her father Tomislav Marković, who was kidnapped in June 2000, but except for a few details about his abduction, she has never found out anything.

"My father was abducted on the road Niš-Priština, near the village of Livadica. Although KFOR was escorting the convoy of vehicles in which he was, he was pulled out of the car and taken away in an unknown direction. We have never found out anything about him", Snežana Zdravković says in tears.

Ivica Marković from Priština remained all alone in the world after kidnapping of his brother Zoran. He has been accommodated in Prokuplje. There are no conditions

for him to visit the graves of his parents. He has been searching for his brother night and day, but he always comes upon the wall of silence and insincerity.

"Every day is anxiety and uncertainty for me. I hope that Zoran is alive, but I know that the chances are very small. Information we receive from international officials indicate that our loved one is dead; my head is trying to accept it, but the heart won't and can't", Ivica Marković says.

Aleksandar and Milanka Remištar from Biča near Klina have been searching for their son Nenad since June 1998. For eight years, Milanka's eyes have never dried of tears, but she still hopes her son is alive. She would forget at once about her life as a refugee in inhuman conditions, without electricity, water and basic items for life, if she could see her Nenad alive.

"Nenad's son does not remember his father. He was only six months old when his father was abducted, but he misses him dearly and keeps on asking about what his father was like, what his father loved. In such moments my heart wants to jump out of the chest, for we have no strength to tell stories to the boy and reopen the cancer-wound which will never heal", Aleksandar Remištar says, mentioning that his first neighbour Albanian from Biča recently called and told him a few details about his kidnapped son. Hope that he is alive has inflamed again. "If only it weren't false news like many before", says Milanka Remištar, an internally displaced person from the village of Biča near Klina.

## Shedding Light on the Fates of Missing Persons Is Condition for Solving Other Issues

### *Demands of the families of kidnapped and missing persons in Kosovo and Metohija at the meeting of the Working Group for Missing Persons in Priština – Belgrade Office*

We think that the joint meeting of working groups for missing persons (9 March 2006) is important particularly from the humanitarian aspect as elucidation of the fates of missing persons would significantly affect all other segments of our life. We are convinced that solving of the fates of missing persons should be an indicator of democratization of the society and state

and their readiness to show respect for human rights and achieve the highest standards of human rights' protection, because this issue is in direct connection with solving other humanitarian and political issues. The problems related to our cases refer to mass graves, illegal prisons, murders—in short, war crimes and crimes against humanity. We are representatives of the Association of

misfortunate families who are neither a political factor nor professional investigators. War crimes against us did not start in 1998, but much earlier.

- Why haven't the cases from 1998 when there were no war conflicts been solved? What happened to the miners from Belačevac Mine who had been kidnapped in May and June 1998 and other civilians abducted in that period? What happened to the abducted and missing persons after war conflicts in 1999?

At the last expanded meeting of the Working Group on Missing Persons in Priština, on 10 June 2005, the questions were propounded to which we rightfully expect answers today: we asked for unconditional release of innocent imprisoned Serbs and non-Albanians, acceleration of the process of exhumation and identification as well as take-over of mortal remains of abducted persons.

Has documentation about the crimes against the Serbs and non-Albanians, collected by the representatives of KFOR and taken to their mother countries after the mission, been returned? Then, documentation from The Hague Tri-

bunal who exhumated more than 4,000 persons, of which number 2,000 persons were buried at unknown locations - why the specified documentation has never been returned to Kosovo and Metohija

Have the NGOs, who pursue the problem of the missing persons, allowed use of the documentation aimed at solving every individual case? What happened to people from 144 illegal camps whose existence was confirmed by CCIU in Zvečan on 25 November 2003? Where are kidnapers and their principals? Most answers related to the fate of the abducted persons are hidden. In the name of all our unfortunate families, we appeal for release of all prisoners and handing over of mortal remains of the victims to their families immediately. We insist that the tragedy of our loved ones is referred to with more dignity and respect.

We hope that importance of solving the fates of our loved ones will put our problem on the agenda of the following meeting of working groups in Vienna.



**Meeting of Working Groups, testimony in Vienna; 19-20 May 2006; Delegation of the families of kidnapped, missing and exiled persons from the territory of Kosovo and Metohija at the reception in the Embassy of FR Y, with Mr Dragan Velikić**



## Founding of Kosovo Property Agency

*UNMIK passed Regulation on Property Claims in respect to private immovable property including agricultural and commercial property*

The UNMIK Regulation 2006/10 on the Resolution of Claims Relating to Private Immovable Property, including Agricultural and Commercial Property, was signed on 4 March in Priština, on the basis of the authorization of the General Secretary's Special Representative, and came into force on the same day. The Regulation ensured full framework for settlement of complex property right issues in connection with private immovable property including agricultural and commercial property. This Regulation is the result of extensive negotiations and consultations, both intra-UNMIK and with the Provisional Institutions of Self-Government and major donors.

According to this Regulation, a new Kosovo Property Agency was founded as an independent administrative agency with competence to investigate post-conflict property claims. It will consist of the Supervisory Board, Executive Secretariat and Property Claims Commission. The Kosovo Property Agency will operate using the expertise and experience provided by the Housing and Property Directorate (HPD) of the Housing

and Property Claims Commission (HPCC). The mandate of the Kosovo Property Claims Commission is to provide consultation services and pass conclusions on the claims submitted to the Kosovo Property Agency. The decisions about these findings and conclusions shall be passed in the scope of the competences of the Kosovo court system. Conclusions of the Commission shall be resolved through the competence of the local court system, with the right of appeal only to the Supreme Court. The Housing and Property Directorate (HPD), which has almost completed its assignments according to the applicable law, shall extend its human and physical resources and be involved in the new Kosovo Property Agency. The Supervisory Board consists of five members appointed by the HPCC and represents the interests of UNMIK. The community of donors shall supervise the work of the Kosovo Property Agency, perform administrative supervision, provide general instructions and assist in defining of work policy.

## Apartments for Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons

*The corner stone was set for a new building with 32 apartments in Kragujevac.*

Serbian Minister of Capital Investments Velimir Ilić set the corner stone for the first building with 32 apartments in the settlement Airport of the city of Kragujevac. These apartments are dedicated to the refugees, exiles, internally displaced persons and families of kidnapped and missing persons as well as to other vulnerable families of Kragujevac. The value of the investment is EUR 450,000 and the funds are provided by the Italian government. The city will participate with 30 per cent of the total value through infrastructure.

The vulnerable families of refugees will move into new apartments whose surface area is 25 and 50 square meters until the end of this year. The second

building with 32 apartments and the third one with 14 housing units will be erected on the same location, while 20 apartments will be bought in a building elsewhere in Kragujevac. The Government of Italy provided 1.2 million dinars worth donation for construction and purchase of 96 apartments in the city on the Lepenica River.

Apart to Kragujevac, in the course of this year, the same program will include a total of 574 apartments in Niš, Čačak, Kraljevo, Pančevo, Stara Pazova and Valjevo, which will be build out of an investment of 15 million Euros, excluding the participation of the cities.



Families of missing persons place roses on the memorial on Nikola Pašić Square

## Crimes without Punishment

*Bodies of 29 Serbs and non-Albanians were taken over from mass graves*

At KFOR's point of the administrative border crossing Merdare, families and friends of kidnapped Serbs, moaning in tears, took over mortal remains of 29 Serbs and non-Albanians kidnapped and killed in Kosovo.

"Among twenty-three killed Serbs from Orahovac and the surrounding villages of Retimlje, Opteruša and Zočište were the bodies of eleven members of the family Kostić", painfully said Olgica Božanić on behalf of the Association of Families of Kidnapped and Missing Persons in Kosmet, sister of two kidnapped brothers Kostić, Todor and Lazar.

- Kidnapping and then killing of residents of these villages is one of the worst crimes that took place during the peace in Kosmet. Not only that the families cannot bury them in their graveyards and have burial

services in the churches which were demolished, but, what is even more painful for them, none of the criminals was charged or arrested – said Veljko Odalović, President of the Committee on Missing Persons of the Government of the Republic of Serbia.

- More than 300 names of kidnappers were provided to The Hague Tribunal and judicial institutions in Kosmet, but nobody did anything to imprison the criminals, said Odalović resentfully.



# 2007.

No bodies, no crimes. In absence of evidence, the killers can sleep peacefully without fear that the hand of justice will reach them. This is how lingering of the search for kidnapers, delays in identifications, exhumations and investigations can be interpreted.

## We Are No Longer Present at Exhumations in Kosovo

In Belgrade, a meeting between the representatives of the International Commission on Missing Persons and representatives of the Association of Families of Kidnapped and Missing Persons in Kosovo-Metohija was held. Director of the International Commission on Missing Persons (ICMP) Catherine Bomberger spoke about the process of search and identification of missing persons in Kosovo and Metohija.

At the meeting between the representatives of ICMP and the Association of Families of Kidnapped and Missing Persons in Kosovo and Metohija, which was held in March, the families were invited once more to give blood for DNA analysis.

“With all samples of bones and blood, we succeeded to get 2,000 DNA identifications. Therefore, we now have 1,700 full sets of blood; it means that we have accomplished our target, to have at least two and a half donors of blood relatives. But we don’t have a bone with which to match. We still have bodies at the Priština morgue, but none of these bodies matched any set of blood we have. Therefore, let me repeat: we have 700 full sets of blood, but they do not match any of the bones we got; on the other hand, we have 700 unique DNA profiles isolated from the bone samples which do not match any of these bloods samples that we have in our database,”

## Associations Must Be Included in Talks about Kosovo

### *Meeting at the Government of Serbia*

Members of the Association of Families of Kidnapped and Missing Persons in Kosovo and Metohija and the Association of Families of Kidnapped

and Killed Civilians, Soldiers and Police Officers in Kosovo and Metohija, having insisted for a long time to be received by the Prime Minister Vojislav



Family members of two Associations have made countless attempts to bring attention to their tragedy. In February, in front of the Presidency of Serbia, they protested and demanded to speak to the UN Special Emissary Martti Ahtisaari in order to inform him about the troubles and problems they had all these past years. Since Ahtisaari did not accept the request for reception of the families of kidnapped persons, President of the Republic of Serbia Boris Tadić, after talks with the Special Emissary, received the members of both Associations, carefully listened to their problems and promised a whole-hearted assistance. During this protest, the members of both Associations carried transparent with pictures of their loved ones who they are still searching for.

Koštunica, were finally received at the building of the Government at mid-February and talked to the Prime Minister’s Counsellor Aleksandar Simić.

They demanded forming of the negotiating team for missing persons in the talks between the representatives of Belgrade and Priština and mandatory participation of the representatives of the Associations. That

is the only way in which the fate of kidnapped and missing persons can be solved. Systematic and detailed talks about exhumations, identifications, status issues and search for the camps where there may still be survivors are necessary - was the conclusion from the meeting with Mr. Simić.

## Social and Legal Issues

### *Kraljevo Office of the Association of Families of Kidnapped and Missing Persons in Kosmet*

Most activities of the Coordinator and members of the Kraljevo Office involved the representative of the Centre for Social Work. In talks with the Centre’s representative and according to the interpretation of the Regulation of the Republic of Serbia, none of the families met the requirements prescribed by the Regulation, and we wonder why it was passed at all.

Namely, if a single mother receives social aid in the amount of 7,500 dinars, she will lose the right to that kind of aid. We demand that the Government and the line Ministry correct the Regulation and pass a new one that would guarantee single mothers to have average personal income on the level of the Republic of Serbia in the amount of 27,000 dinars, the members of the Kraljevo Office emphasize in their request.





Meeting at the Government of Serbia with Prime Minister's Counsellor Aleksandar Simić

**CONFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON MISSING PERSONS (ICMP) IN OHRID**  
 In Ohrid, in May, Conference of the International Commission for Missing Persons (ICMP) was held with attendance of 65 representatives of the associations of families and state commissions for missing persons from all communities, as well as representative of international governmental and non-governmental organizations. Conclusions were passed which should help in faster and more efficient solving of the fates of abducted and missing persons as well as in finding the locations of the killed persons



Museum of Genocide Victims in cooperation with the Association of Families of Kidnapped and Missing Persons in Kosovo-Metohija prepared the exhibition "Kosovo-Metohija – the Truth". The author of the exhibition is Nenad Antonijević (on the photo above left), custodian of the Museum of Genocide Victims. The exhibition took place at Home of the Army of Serbia in Belgrade and moved after that to Kragujevac, Kraljevo and Kosovska Mitrovica...

Handing over of mortal remains of killed persons in Kosmet at the administrative border crossing Merdare in presence of the Commission for Missing Persons of the Government of Serbia According to Veljko Odalović, President of the Commission for Missing Persons of the Government of Serbia, identification of mortal remains of killed persons was made by DNA analysis, which is expected for 450 mortal remains of Serbs and non-Albanians killed in Kosmet while, according to the data of the Commission, 600 persons of non-Albanian nationality are still missing





**Dragica Majstorović in front of the Government of the Republic of Serbia, International Day of Missing Persons**

**In the photo below: We cannot return parents to these children, but we can devote a little attention whenever we have an opportunity. Traditionally, the Association of Families of Kidnapped and Missing Persons in Kosovo-Metohija gives New Year gifts to the children of the victims**



# 2008.

By violating the international law and infringing its own premises and principles, the international community has strengthened the illegitimate state of Kosovo by its unilateral recognition. The Albanian side has become democratic all of a sudden, sending the signals that they will behave like Europeans. But, who can believe the yesterday's kidnapers, murderers and slaughterers who, in the meantime, had a bath, had their hair cut and changed into suits to become overnight decent, tolerant and respectful of the civilized world's rules? Members of the families of kidnapped Serbs and non-Albanians do not believe in such transformation. For almost a decade they have been waging the Sisyphus' fight for the truth and trying to bring the Kosovo leaders and their mentors to reason in order to get permission for the beginning of mass graves excavations together with the competent international organizations, in hope to find their abducted loved ones. Somebody certainly did not like to have the Albanian extremists' crimes discovered. Namely, how will you give someone a state if it is founded on blood and crime? Now, it suits them even less when the majority countries in the world have raised with disapproval. They only have to be silent for a while longer and in the meantime cover the traces of their crimes or, in good old habit, present the Serbian victims as innocently killed Albanian civilians. That's how it used to be done, and in the future we will see how a new "democracy" works.

## Investigation of Trafficking in Kosovo Serbs' Organs

The investigating judge of the War Crimes Council of the District Court in Belgrade will interrogate several persons and obtain some potentially available documentation within the pre-trial proceedings on the allegations of trafficking in the organs of Kosovo Serbs who had disappeared during and after the bombing of Yugoslavia in 1999, the Court has announced. The investigative judge received the request from the War Crimes Prosecution to pursue the investigation activities aimed at authentication of the allegations stated in some media which refer to possible war crimes and human organs trafficking in 1999, the announcement says.

The Prosecutor's Office indicates that informal findings obtained during the investigation about the crimes committed by the KLA members against the Serbian civilians are being checked. The information refers to

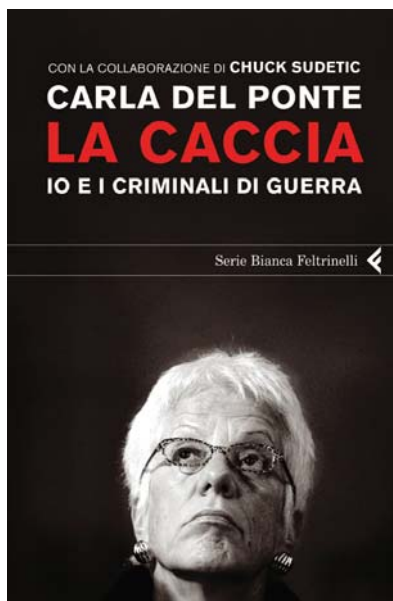
two trucks with imprisoned Serbs from Kosmet which were transferred to Albania in 1999.

The former chief UN War Crime Prosecutor Carla Del Ponte, in her memoirs "The Hunt: Me and War Criminals" says that during the investigation about the crimes of the KLA against non-Albanians, the Prosecutor's Office was notified that the persons who had gone missing during the war conflicts in Kosovo were the victims of the organ trafficking operation.

She says that the Tribunal investigators and UNMIK officials received information that in summer 1999 the Kosovo Albanians had transported by trucks, across the border to the north of Albania, more than 300 abducted persons whose organs were later extracted to be sold.



In her book "The Hunt: Me and War Criminals", which appeared in April in the bookstores throughout Italy, the former war crimes prosecutor of The Hague Tribunal Carla Del Ponte regards UNMIK and KFOR of Hashim Thaçi and Agim Cheku as "more than dangerous for all peace efforts in the Balkans". Both Thaçi and Cheku can incite the rebellious Albanian minority and start the violence in Macedonia, Southern Serbia and other regions – Carla Del Ponte wrote in her book whose parts are presented by the Beta News Agency. Carla Del Ponte claims to have indicated to the necessity of bringing charges against the KLA leaders to the American Administration during her visit to Washington in March 2002. She complained to the officials that she had applied many times asking for "very important assistance in the investigations against the KLA leaders", but the assistance had never been rendered. Intimidation of a great number of witnesses who were supposed to testify against the KLA leaders had begun before the charges against them were unsealed. As an example, del Ponte mentions the murder of Tahir Zemaj who was supposed to testify against Haradinaj. Soon after that, two police officers who investigated the murder of Zemaj were also killed. "The Prosecutor's Office received a semi-formal report from UNMIK about Zemaj's murder", del Ponte claims. In reply to the official request, UNMIK sent a document in which all subject-related sections were obscured. The still legible part said that before the murder Zemaj had said, most probably to a member of UNMIK, that in case he was killed Ramush Haradinaj and a man would be among the possible suspects. The former prosecutor blames the UN mission in the Southern Serbian province to have obstructed cooperation with the Tribunal by refusing to solve the witness protection problem and rendered support to Ramush Haradinaj, the former KLA leader. The UNMIK documents that the Prosecutor's Office demanded were occasionally "edited or arranged so that they could not be used in court", and Carla Del Ponte reported about it to the then UN General Secretary Kofi Annan. She says that the first man of the world organization was notified about the poster in the Priština city centre with the image of Haradinaj and support message to the former UNMIK chief Seren Jesen Petersen.



#### EULEX IS BUYING PEACE

Veljko Odalović, the chief of the delegation in the Working Group for elucidation of the fates of missing persons, said for the Belgrade paper "Voice" that cooperation with EULEX and Kosovo Provisional Institutions is impossible. "The Protocols and Work Rules were defined with UNMIK. We will insist on the continuation of that process in compliance with the rules and standards. The international mission is not ready to confront the terrorists. They are buying the peace. They believe it's enough that the criminals from the forests, who have blood on their hands up to the elbows, are dressed into nice suits and promoted into prime ministers. The international community repacked Haradinaj, Cheku and Thaçi, the indisputable criminals, into pretended democrats. Who can expect that a president of such a government of such a phantom state will discover the criminals, bring them to justice and process the murderers in whose company he himself committed the crimes? Hashim Thaçi is indisputably one of the murderers of the police officers at the border crossing Glogovac. How can anyone believe him and expect from him to work on this issue, when clearly he won't? It is a serious problem which the international community will have to fight with in the long run, because they are now the partners. If the international community really wants to solve this problem, then it has to promote new people who are not steeped in blood and crime. Who in Serbia can cooperate with the man who is convicted of crimes here? EULEX will be taking over the competences from UNMIK in the following four months and then have a quasi state for a partner, the state which will never be recognized by Serbia and an illegal mission of the European Union" – Odalović pointed out.



## Serbia Has Fulfilled Its Obligations

The fate of about 2,000 missing person is still unknown. This issue has to be solved, because the missing persons' families, whether they are the Serbs or the Albanians, have the right to the truth.

At the beginning of 2005, Working Groups of Belgrade and Priština were formed in order to deal with the issue of missing persons.

- Then, the activities were intensified, but we are not satisfied with the results, says Veljko Odalović, President of the Commission on Missing Persons of the Government of the Republic of Serbia, adding that the situation is more favourable in relation to the period until 2005.

- When we started to work, the shared evidence of persons contained 3,300 names, which were the data of the International Red Cross Committee. Today, that number is below 2,000, which means that 1,300 cases have been solved since 2005.

- I have to emphasize that the Republic of Serbia has fulfilled the as-

sumed obligations and all bodies found in mass graves were handed over to UNMIK and later to the families.

Odalović reminds that the Special Court for War Crimes is processing a number of files, while there is not even a piece of information about that process on the other side.

- We don't have a single verdict for the crimes against the Serbs and non-Albanians in Kosovo and Metohija, no information from the investigating authorities, because their readiness for cooperation does not exist. The Provisional Institutions of Kosovo also have their interests not to take any actions, because they consist of the people who can be brought in direct connection with the 1998 and 1999 crimes.

## Dark Secrets of Albanian Prisons and Camps

*Verica Tomanović, spoke in an interview with Vesna Lukić; Abducted Truth, June 2008*

The greatest number of abduction of Serbian and non-Albanian civilians took place after 10 June 1999, when the mandate of The Hague Tribunal in the investigation of war crimes in Kosovo and Metohija had been terminated. The KFOR soldiers took the documentation about the criminals to the bases of their mother countries and thus made it unavailable.

Information published by the former war crime prosecutor of The Hague Tribunal Carla Del Ponte in her memoirs "The Hunt: Me and War Criminals" that the Serbs and other non-Albanians who had disappeared in war conflicts in Kosovo and Metohija had been transported to Albania where their internal organs had been extracted to be sold on the illegal market shocked the families of missing and kidnapped persons.

"We are surprised it took so much time for us to find out about that horror. Our first meeting with Carla Del Ponte took place in 2001, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the FRY. We met her later, too, but she never mentioned anything of the findings presented in her memoirs and published by the media."

- What action did Miss Carla Del Ponte take in order to shed the light on the fates of your missing family members?

"It was the question we asked her time and again. Her answer was that The Hague Tribunal mandate had stopped on the day when armed conflicts had been terminated, namely, The Hague Tribunal did not have the mandate to investigate the crimes after arrival of the peacekeeping forces in Kosovo and Metohija."



**TRUST AND SUPPORT FOR PAST AND FUTURE WORK**  
**The Electoral Assembly of the Association of Families of Kidnapped and Missing Persons**

**All delegates of the Assembly supported the Work Report of the Assembly and reports on financial operations of all offices. By acclamation, the previous president Verica Tomanović was elected President of the Association, whereas mandates of all coordinators of the Association Offices were acknowledged: Slobodanka Cvetković in Niš, Brankica Antić in Kraljevo, Velibor Ađančić in Gračanica, Negovan Mavrić in Sub-Office Velika Hoča and Milorad Tribunović in Sub-Office Kosovska Mitrovica. Some small changes and supplements to the Statute of the Association were made. Work of Presidency was terminated because the Executive Board with fewer members has the competences to attend all issues that the Presidency used to do per regions, whereas the Executive Board consists of the representatives of all regions of Kosovo and Metohija. Olgica Božović was re-appointed Secretary of the Association and Cica Janković, who is in charge of technical data processing, was appointed Technical Associate. The work report submitted by President Verica Tomanović comprised the period of the past four years.**



*- The greatest number of abductions took place after 10 June 1999?*

“Yes, the greatest number of abductions took place after the adoption of the UN Security Council Resolution 1244, which guaranteed safety and security to all citizens.”

*- How many illegal detention camps were there according to the Association?*

“We knew about 144 illegal detention camps at Kosovo and Metohija. Unfortunately, we have never found out what had happened with detainees from these prisons. In November 2003, we had a meeting with Malcolm Stark, Head of the Central Criminal Investigation Unit of UNMIK police forces in Priština. He told us that UNMIK found the remains of 144 camps where people had been kept. However, he couldn't answer where the people from such illegal detention places had disappeared.

*- Do you cooperate with the media about the grievous search for the truth of the fates of the missing loved ones of your families?*

“We receive all the time information about the camps, secret pris-

ons, forced labour and exploitation of abducted persons. We even made the lists with locations of camps and prisons and names of their commanders. We also had a list of potential witnesses, but nobody wanted to write or speak about these crimes and criminals. The fact that our government and international institutions knew about the abductions did not conduce to conduction of investigations, rescue of abducted people and imprisonment of perpetrators. We used all pieces of information we got from private sources. We had direct meetings with the representatives of UNMIK, with heads of UN missions who came to Belgrade, with the International Red Cross Committee, and the others.

*- What happened with the documentation and evidence of the crimes collected on site by KFOR in 1999?*

“The crucial fact for us is that the documentation which KFOR had collected on the site in their first mandate in 1999 was taken away to the bases in their parent states where the missions came from. There are substantial evidence and documentation (photos,

records and other evidence) which we could never find and which could contribute to clarification of almost half the cases.

*- The Agreement of 3 (Three) Protocols between the Serbian Police and UNMIK has never been implemented?*

“The Agreement of 3 Protocols signed between our police and UNMIK considering joint actions and raids of the buildings which were known to be secret prisons was long forgotten. As if the issue of kidnapped and missing persons became the top state secret, like a political burden or a stumbling block for all governments. As if everyone saw evil in it, something they wanted to run away from or wash their hands. This inertness makes our families desperate.”

*- To which addresses did you send letters last month?*

“The letters were sent to the UN General Secretary Ban Ki-mun, President Boris Tadić and Prime Minister Vojislav Koštunica, Minister of Foreign Affairs Vuk Jeremić and some other government institutions. We wrote with the aim at taking actions and activities based on the international law in connection with illegal detention centres in the Republic of Albania and human organs trafficking, forcible detentions, abductions and disappearances.”

*- What did you demand?*

“The UN General Secretary has a mandate to order, form and send the OUN commissions of inquiry with the purpose to investigate the allegations or justified suspicions that any of the following criminal acts have been committed: premeditated killing, torture and inhuman treatment of people, human experiments, intentional infliction of mental suffering, making serious injuries to physical integrity and health. The investigation can also be conducted because of arbitrary deportations, transfers or detentions of the persons protected by the Geneva Convention. Mandate of the commissions of inquiry appointed by the OUN General Secretary involves supervision of the investigation initiated by the Prosecutor's Office in the given country, supervision of the investigation action or their independent implementation, supervision or independent implementation of forensic analysis and procedures, inspection into dossiers, documen-

tation and other written notifications of competent authorities who conduct the investigation, as well as reporting to the OUN General Secretary.”

*- But that does not exhaust all possibilities provided for by the international law.*

“The international humanitarian right has provided for the possibility of forming an international fact-finding commission. It is a 15-member commission which can be formed either by the OUN or by the International Committee of Red Cross and whose mandate is to investigate all facts and allegations in regard to committed criminal acts as serious injuries of the Geneva Conventions. It will conduct an investigation in order to establish all facts: the scenario, identity of victims, motive and responsible persons. We remind of the mandate of the Commission for Human Rights in the scope of the socio-economic council of the OUN which can also be included in case of allegations and justified suspicion of crimes against civilians. We point out to important facts found in the past by the international organization Amnesty International which is involved in the issues of organized crime, detention and illegal prisons on the territory of the Republic of Albania. That is why it is necessary to contact this organization and get their reports.”

*- Were mortal remains of 400 victims who are in the morgue of the Priština hospital identified?*

“At the forensic department of the Priština hospital there are about 400 mortal remains of unknown persons. From ICMP, which performs DNA analysis, we received information that the profiles taken from the corpses and the blood taken from family members of missing persons do not match. We insist that the origin of bones is disclosed, because we suspect that the remains belong to the members of our families. There have been only four identifications of late. They do not carry out exhumations of new cases, they do not open new graves and the number of Serbian victims is minimized.



### FACING THE PAST AND THE PRESENT

From 30 May to 2 June, the workshop in the scope of the project "Survivors – Facing the Past and the Present" was organized in Vrnjačka Banja at the initiative of the International Commission on Missing Persons (ICMP) – Section of the Civil Society Initiative. The representatives of the Association of Families of Kidnapped and Missing Persons in Kosovo-Metohija from offices in Belgrade, Niš, Kraljevo, Gračanica, Kosovska Mitrovica and Velika Hoča took part. This was only one in a series of workshops whose goal was to improve mutual understanding of the Association members in order to agree how to achieve their common goals through certain concrete activities. With very active involvement in the work, perception of the problems and finding of modes for its resolution, the Association members gave a number of useful proposals. Their work was helped and coordinated by Danijela Galović and Goran Lojančić. Various aspects of communication and development of conflict-resolution skills were analyzed at the workshop.



Reception of the delegation of the Association by the Russian Ambassador in Belgrade From left to right: Olgica Božanić, Cica Janković, Verica Tomanović, Ambassador of Russia Aleksandar Konuzin, Dragana Majstorović, Gordana Ristić (coordinator of the Niš Office)

### MORTAL REMAINS OF ŠLJIVIĆ FAMILY HANDED OVER

Mortal remains of the married couple Milan (79) and Olga (74) Šljivić from Prizren, who were killed by the Albanian terrorists in Prizren, were handed over to the Serbian Commission on Missing Persons at Merdare administrative border crossing between Serbia and Kosovo. The President of the Commission Veljko Odalović said that mortal remains of the married couple Šljivić had been exhumated last year at the Orthodox cemetery in Prizren and that the process of their identification took a year. Pointing out that the Šljivićs were elderly people, Olga was born in 1925 and Milan in 1920, Odalović explained that they had been killed in their own apartment in Prizren, which they had refused to leave in 1999, at the time of mandate of the International Mission in Kosovo and Metohija.



XI Regional Conference of the Associations of Families of Missing Persons from the territory of former Yugoslavia, Hotel Metropol, Belgrade



#### FAMILIES OF MISSING PERSONS STILL WAITING

“The former participants in the conflict have answers to what happened to these people”, said Paul Henri Arni, head of the Delegation of ICRC in Serbia on the occasion of marking the International Day of Missing Persons, and added: “The authorities are obliged to give answers to the families who have been waiting for them too long”.

It has been almost seventeen years since the beginning of conflicts in former Yugoslavia and the fate of almost 17,000 people across the region is still unknown. For that reason, on the occasion of marking the International Day of Missing Persons (30th August), the International Committee of Red Cross appeals to the authorities of the Western Balkans’ countries to accelerate the process which has to establish what happened to those who disappeared in connection with the conflicts. During the last 12 months, the light was shed to the fate of about 1,000 persons, leaving us with a total number of 16,713 of missing persons. Uncertainty of the fates of their loved ones is the greatest emotional burden for the families of missing persons, who receive insufficient legal and administrative support in their efforts to find out what happened to their members. ICRC appeals to the authorities to render full support to the regional institutions which were established with the purpose to shed the light on the fates of missing persons, including the Institute for Missing persons of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Working Group for Missing Persons in Kosovo and the Government’s Commission for Missing Persons.

“The families should be honoured for their amazing perseverance, courage and dignity in their search for the responsible”, said Arni. “We appeal to the authorities and public audience to remember the families of missing persons and their needs, today and every day, as long as the fate of their loved ones is unknown”.

ICRC will continue to support the families of missing persons and search services of the national societies of Red Cross in the Western Balkans. Recently, ICRC published a new handbook on psycho-social support, whose goal is to back up the family associations and national societies in their aid to the families of missing persons to manage their loss.



#### NATO AND UNMIK KNEW EVERYTHING

The Canadian Scott Taylor, former member of Peacekeeping Forces in KIM:

- In 1999, there were rumours in Kosovo about human organs trafficking of the abducted and missing Serbs, but they were rejected as Serbian propaganda – this is how the allegations from Carla Del Ponte’s book “The Hunt: Me and the Criminals” are commented by Scot Taylor, a former member of the Canadian Peacekeeping Forces in Kosovo in 1999, a war reporter, a military analyst and a journalist of the military magazine “Esprit de Corps” (“Spirit of the Forces”).

- Nothing was published about the crimes against the Serbs that the Albanians were committing even within the sight of the western journalists and NATO forces, Taylor said.

Asked if the international forces were familiar with the allegations from Carla Del Ponte’s book, Taylor says that it was impossible that Carla Del Ponte could have had information about such crimes unless NATO or UNMIK had them. For a number of these crimes which were, Taylor reminds, committed by Agim Cheku, the Canadian forces were the witnesses who had recorded them, especially in regard of the crimes in Croatia (“Medak Pocket”, and the operation “The Storm”).

Scott Taylor mentions that he wrote all the time about Cheku’s crimes, including the Canadian double standards of justice in his memoirs.

– A Canadian Luise Arbour brought charges against Slobodan Milošević in 1999 for the Račak massacre, which the forensic experts rejected as fabricated. The question arises why she did not bring charges against the Albanian leaders for smuggling of the abducted Serbs’ organs.

## Organs of the Serbs Extracted at Psychiatric Hospital

*Bodies of killed Serbs were thrown into mass graves in a swamp near the city of Tropoje and Deva Mine*

The ambulance of the neuropsychiatric hospital in the place called Burelj in Albania was the room of death where doctors from Kosovo and Metohija extracted organs of the abducted Serbs, Romani and disloyal Albanians. As we learn from a source of the Office of the War Crimes Prosecutor, the bodies of the victims were then thrown into a swamp near Tropaje and Deva Mine. The victims were brought there by the KLA members to be operated and had their internal organs extracted. The organs were later illegally sold. The Office of the War Crimes Prosecutor, which started the investigation about the illegal human organ trading, suspect that these monstrous operations were practised from 1998 until March 2001.

The accurate number of victims has not been confirmed yet, but the first assumptions indicate to at least 70 persons who are in the mass

graves at three locations in the swamp near Tropoje as well as in the Deva Mine on the Albanian side of the border. Mortal remains of the victims, who were brought there from the camps in Albania, are also at these locations.

The investigation of the Office of the War Crimes Prosecutor found out the fact that in March 2001 forty patients from the psychiatric hospital in Štimlje in Kosovo and Metohija were transferred by a van across the border crossing Vrbnica near Prizren. Further fates of these people have never been discovered. The neuropsychiatric hospital in Burelj near the notorious “yellow house”, mentioned in the book of the former Hague Prosecutor Carla Del Ponte.

## The Albanians Have to Do Their Share of Work

*Vladimir Vukčević presented the evidence on organ trafficking of the abducted Serbs from the area of Kosovo and Metohija.*

Completely opposite attitudes were shown, but there is hope that solving of the problems will begin.

On 27 October, Vladimir Vukčević, the War Crimes Prosecutor of Serbia, submitted to the Chief Prosecutor of Albania Iva Rama part of the material on organ trafficking of the abducted Serbs from Kosovo! Public Relations Officer of the Office of the War Crimes Prosecutor of Serbia Bruno Vekarić estimated that the dialogue between the Prosecutors Vukčević and Rama in Tirana were of exceptionally high-quality.

– Irrespective of the diametrically different positions in the procedure and established facts, the meeting was of exceptional quality – Vekarić said without going into the details of the meeting.

He pointed out that the Office of the War Crimes Prosecutor of Serbia is obliged to the victims and families of killed and missing persons to establish direct communication with the competent Prosecutor’s Office in Albania in regard to the allega-

tions of the former Hague Tribunal Prosecutor Carla Del Ponte that human organ trafficking took place from the territory of that country.

“The idea was that we go where, according to Carla Del Ponte’s allegations, the trafficking took place, and it was done”, Vekarić said adding that the Special Envoy of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe Dick Marty, who is in charge of this field, would be also notified about all allegations in connection with organ trafficking of the abducted and missing persons.

We remind that Carla Del Ponte wrote in her book, which agitated the public audience at the beginning of the year, that while investigating the crimes of the KLA against the Serbs and other ethnic communities, she found out that persons who had disappeared in 1999 from Kosovo and had been transferred to the north of Albania had had their kidneys and other organs extracted. The organs were later smuggled and sold to foreign clinics.



# 2009.

The fact is that delayed finding of the truth suited many persons in Europe and America because realization of the plan to deprive Serbia of a part of its territory, which had been disabled for years, had to be enforced at any price, regardless of the means or methods. Just after New Year we witness public and open stories about William Walker's and Helen Rante's deceptions in connection with the Račak case, which was faked and used as an initial trigger for bombing and devastation of our country including immense pressures which enabled occupation of Kosovo and Metohija and, eventually, realization of the target which had been set long ago - an independent Kosovo. Now, all of a sudden, everyone knows everything. They all have indisputable evidence about the atrocities committed against the Serbs, non-Albanians and Albanians who were "the collaborators of Belgrade" and almost all began to compete who will publish more facts.

## Mass Grave Located Near the Place of Burelj

*Mass grave is only 1.6 kilometres far from the "yellow house" where innocent civilians had their organs extracted*

The latest facts found out by the Office of the War Crimes Prosecutor indicate that the mass grave with bodies of the Serbs abducted in Kosovo and Metohija, whose organs were extracted, is located about 1.6 kilometres far from the "yellow house", near the place Burelj. Namely, this fact is part of the drawing made in 2004 by the UNMIK forensic experts who visited the "yellow house" which is believed to have been an improvised surgery theatre.

- It is the part of UNMIK's report which was missing and which can discover a lot of unknown facts. Besides, on the basis of the evidence which is now available, there are suspicions that the mass grave could be on three possible locations. This report indicated to one of them.

In addition to the drawings made by the forensic experts and anthropologists of UNMIK headed by the then Chief of UNMIK's Office on Missing Persons and Forensics Jose Pablo Barajbar, the Office of the War

Crimes Prosecutor got in possession of a huge number of photographs. They show vials of every single medication found in the "yellow house" and around it. Photos were taken of every room, syringe, medical waste container, even of the locations which were suspected by the UNMIK forensic experts to be the graves of abducted Serbs. Transplantations were performed at the clinics "Mother Theresa" in Tirana and Skopje.

A number of abducted persons were accommodated at the Kosovo-Albanian border, in the place Krum. Some of them are supposed to have ended up in the Deva Camp, in Kukeš, and in Tropoja.

From these places, the prisoners were taken into improvised clinics where they were subject to horrible surgery interventions. It is assumed that the organs were then transferred to the nearest airports and transported by air to West Europe.



### 1904 PERSONS ARE STILL MISSING

In Belgrade, on 3 June this year, under the auspices of the ICRC, there was a meeting of the Working Group on persons kidnapped and missing in Kosovo-Metohija before or after arrival of the International Peacekeeping Mission to the Southern Serbian province. The Working Group on the persons who are maintained as missing in connection with the events in Kosovo in the period January 1998 – December 2000 was founded in March 2004 within the Vienna Dialogue between the authorities of Belgrade and Priština. The meeting is held under the auspices of the Special Envoy of the Secretary General who acts in the capacity of the Chief of the United Nations' Transitional Administration in Kosovo (UNMIK), within the context of the UN Security Council Resolution 1244. Its mandate is exclusively humanitarian with the aim at enabling the families of missing persons to get answers about the fates of their loved ones. It deals with legal and administrative needs of the families of persons whose fate is unknown.

Photo on the left: Alen Robinson, a forensic, and Valery Brassi



### EULEX – AGONY OF THE KIDNAPPED HAS TO END

From 18 to 25 May, delegations of Serbian and Albanian families of kidnapped persons visited Norway.

Serbian and Albanian delegations, which consisted of the representatives of families of kidnapped and missing persons, made a unanimous decision for the first time. It was an Appeal to have the agony of the families of kidnapped persons brought to an end. During a seven-day stay on a neutral territory, in the Norwegian city of Lillehammer, a meeting was organized and talks were held about the problems which the families of kidnapped, missing and killed persons in Kosovo were facing, both by the Serbian and Albanian side. The talks arranged in organization of the International Commission on Missing Persons and Nansen Academy resulted, among other things, in passing a unanimous joint Appeal of Serbian and Albanian delegations of the associations of families of kidnapped and missing persons in Kosovo and Metohija before and after arrival of the International Peacekeeping Mission to the area. The representatives of both sides were unanimous that this was a humanitarian and not a political issue. All participants of this meeting, both the Serbs and the Albanians, five people on each side, signed the Appeal with additional requirement for a more serious approach to this issue.



## Serbian Government Had More Information than Us

*Claims of Jose Pablo Barajbar (from the interview given to "Novosti", in 2009)*

Jose Pablo Barajbar is the most approved forensic expert in the world at the moment. In 2004, he headed the team of investigators and forensic specialists of UNMIK and The Hague Tribunal who visited the notorious "yellow house" in the north of Albania where, as suspected, the abducted Serbs from Kosovo-Metohija had their organs extracted and transported to the West.

He was involved in identification of the bodies in BiH and later in Kosmet. He was Chief of the UNMIK's Office for Forensics and Missing Persons. A few months ago he also succeeded to be "appointed" the key suspect for theft of the bones of missing persons in Kosovo-Metohija as well as for involvement in the alleged organ trafficking of the Serbs who had been taken to Albania. Since then, rumours have been circulating that he had run away to Argentina, hidden in Cuba and gone missing in America. He avoided the media more than deftly. He would say a word or two for Western media, but none for the Serbian.

- *When did you get the first information about human organs trafficking?*

- At the end of 2002 or beginning of 2003. I don't recall exactly now.

- *Who gave you such information?*

- These were the people who did not know one another. There were eight of them. Some were from Prizren and others were from Albania.

- *What exactly did they tell you?*

- Some declared to have already been in the "yellow house", the others said they had seen bodies carried out of it and buried at the local cemetery. Some also told us that they had transported people to Albania. But, we did not talk to anyone who said to have taken part in what was happening at the "yellow house" or, let's say, to have been abducted.

- *Therefore, the first information did not come from the Hague Prosecutor's Office, as Carla Del Ponte wrote in her book "The Hunt: Me and War Criminals"?*

- No, no! The Tribunal did not have any information about it. We con-

tacted them when we found out about it. Although neither Tribunal nor UNMIK had competences in Albania, The Hague was more powerful than us, and we needed great political support in order to get there at all and check what really happened. That is why we called them!

- *How did you reach the "yellow house"?*

- We had accurate information. So, we got a photo of the house which was yellow. But, when we arrived, the family members told us it had always been white...

- *What actually happened in the "yellow house"? Can you reconstruct the events or at least make an assumption?*

- The evidence we found such as medication vials, surgery containers, and alike, were insufficient for conclusions. It was the first and only visit to that place. I think the right question would be – what is the probability that the things we found there can be found in any other house in Serbia, Albania, anywhere in Europe?

- *And, what is the probability?*

- Very small, I would say. Clearly, we went there on the basis of information we had, not because we wanted to visit a house in the middle of nowhere. The evidence we found were inconvincible, but it was still only the beginning of the investigation.

- *Do you claim they were strong enough for continuation of the investigation?*

- The evidence we found there were insufficient themselves, because everything we found there was like pieces of the puzzle. That is why I think there was information for continuation of the investigation. Moreover, we expected that, too.

- *Why wasn't there further investigation?*

- For many reasons. One of them is that soon after that the investigation against Fatmir Ljimaj and Ramush Haradinaj began. As soon as it happened, all sources that could take us to the graveyard and show us where the bodies had been buried – disappeared! Literally disap-



- **Families of missing persons brought criminal charges against you, saying you took the bones of the corpses and did not return them?**

- **That's nonsense. The whole story began with the project made by The Hague Tribunal with the purpose to establish the basic anthropological standards in the Balkans. It means, for example, when you find an unidentified body, on the basis of bone sample you can decide the age of that person. The problem is that in 1999 and in 2000 the standards for American population were applied, which are different. It meant a risk to add or deduct some ten years to somebody's age, which could result in body identification failure. We made standards for the whole Balkans, and in the majority cases returned samples after examination.**

peared! They began to hide and never wanted to talk to us anymore. They ran away!

- *Have you ever found what happened to them?*

- No. All I know is that Fatmir Ljimaj was exonerated, as well as Haradinaj. I think that is why our sources did not want to talk to us.

- *In the forensic report about the visit to the "yellow house" you wrote that you did not check if blood traces you had found there were of human or animal origin. Why?*

- In the rooms, we applied luminol, a chemical substance which detects the traces invisible to the bare eye. It is used in complete darkness. The problem is that the samples you examine with it cannot be used again.

- *Did you have any other technical possibilities to check it?*

- We didn't. We were there in 2004, and the event allegedly happened in 1999. They were not fresh traces, they were removed for years. Luminol, actually, discovered the traces that could be blood. I emphasize "could".

- *What did you do with the reports you had written?*

- I sent them to The Hague Tribunal as the evidence. I have a receipt for all that.

- *A couple of weeks ago, our Office for War Crimes Prosecution got that report from which nine pages were missing. And, a few days ago, they got seven pages more. Now, two pages are missing which are claimed to hide the names of the persons who allegedly falsely presented themselves as The Hague investigators. Who could hide them?*

- I got a copy of my report. I remember it had eight pages and the first two contained the list of all items we had found there and receipt of delivery. Therefore, if I am not mistaken, the report was submitted in March 2004 and the evidence in June of the same year. There is nothing weird in it. I don't really know who would hide it. I think, actually, I am almost sure, that these persons were the Hague Tribunal investigators.

- *Did you, and how, exchange information with the authorities in Belgrade?*

- What I found out working for years in Kosovo is an incredible quantity of information in different places. I bet the Serbian government had a lot of information which were not disclosed. Namely, the fact is it had a lot of data, for example, about Volujak, which we didn't have. And we knew it. We did the most we could for the families of missing persons. I could not do some things. I am not the United Nations or Carla Del Ponte. I was an ordinary employee who did all he could.





**WE WANT THE MONUMENT!**

Delegation of the Association at marking the International Day of the Disappeared in front of the City Hall of Belgrade left an improvised memorial plaque



The evidence of human organ trafficking of the Office of the War Crimes Prosecutor of Serbia handed over to the Special Envoy Dick Marty



Association of Families of Kidnapped and Missing Persons in Kosovo and Metohija officially became a member of FEMED, by signing a document in Istanbul at the meeting held from 11 to 14 December

## Children Found in the Grave

*Exhumation of the bodies in Kmetovac near Gnjilane has been finished*

The EULEX forensic specialists and members of the Kosovo Police Service exhumated mortal remains of minimum 11 persons from the mass grave in the village of Kmetovac near Gnjilane. Among the victims are mortal remains of minimum four children.

The exhumation covered an area of 380 square meters, and the bodies were at the depth of 1.15 meters – the EULEX announcement said emphasizing that the exhumation was carried out by the members of EULEX Office on Missing Persons and Forensics in cooperation with the Unit for War Crimes Investigation and KPS.

According to Arber Beka, Public Relations Officer of KPS, investigation of the location took three days while mortal remains were transferred to the forensics department of EULEX.

The identification procedure by means of DNA analysis will be most probably carried out at the Forensic Medicine Institute in Tuzla – Beka says mentioning that identity of the victims will be known after DNA analysis.

And while KPS underline that most probably the victims were killed in 1998 and 1999 during the war conflict in Kosmet, the representatives of the Serbs from this area suppose they are Serbian civilians who were kidnapped on the road Kmetovce-Dobračane and killed. Otherwise, the location where the mortal remains were found was discovered on the basis of information from the Albanians who started construction works there.

## Serbia Expects International Investigation of the Case of the “Yellow House”

*After submission of Dick Marty’s report to the Council of Europe, we expect launching of an international investigation*

Representatives of the Serbian judiciary and the competent authorities for the issues of missing persons have positively estimated a two-day visit to Belgrade by the Special Envoy of the Council of Europe under the title “Inhuman Treatment of People and Alleged Human Organs Trafficking in Kosovo”. The stay in Belgrade will contribute to the objectivity of Marty’s report and establishment of the truth about human organs trading, the representatives of the Serbian judiciary estimate.

Serbian War Crimes Prosecutor Vladimir Vukčević presented to the Special Envoy of the CE the evidence of the Serbian Office of the War Crimes Prosecutor about the alleged human organs trading in the Northern Albania, in the case of the “yellow house”. After the talks which lasted almost two hours, the representatives of the Serbian Office of the War Crimes Prosecutor said they expected that the alleged human organ trading would be investigated after submission of Dick Marty’s report

to the Council of Europe and adoption of the Resolution with recommendations on the subject-matter.

The meeting between Marty and Vladimir Vukčević was very constructive, according to the Spokesman of the Office of the War Crimes Prosecutor Bruno Vekarić. “We believe in the intention to have the alleged human organs trafficking investigated. Dick Marty will submit the report to the Council of Europe which will pass the Resolution with recommendations on the subject-matter”, Vekarić said to the Beta News Agency after the meeting which lasted more than two hours. Vukčević presented to Marty the evidence which the Office had found out during the investigation, while the Special Envoy presented to the representatives of the Serbian Prosecutor’s Office different details he had collected in connection with the alleged human organs trade.



# 2010.

After more than twelve years since the first kidnappings began in Kosovo and Metohija up to date, the state of Serbia has not found the time to help the families of kidnapped and missing persons in terms of legislative regulation of the status of civil victims. There are written documents that this Association, which means the Association of Families of Kidnapped and Missing Persons in Kosovo and Metohija, in February 2002, addressed all regulatory institutions in the fight for equality of the rights of civil victims and the rights of killed soldiers. Members of the families who were kidnapped or killed before or after arrival of the international forces were farmers, workers, clerks, pupils, students, doctors, engineers, professors, etc. None of them wore a uniform or a weapon; still, they were all killed innocent only because they were not Albanians. They were not protected by our state or by the international forces; hence they defended their homes, institutions and the country with their lives. Families of the civilian victims live on the edge of existence, they are deprived of any compensation and they cannot dispose of their property which is registered to an abducted father, husband or son. Unlike the civilians, the state has regulated the issue of killed police officers and soldiers whose families got family pensions (up to 92,500), apartments and other benefits.

## To Solve a Decade-Long Problem

### *Briefing Minister Rasim Ljajić*

Representatives of the Association of Families of Kidnapped and Missing Persons in Kosovo and Metohija met with the Minister of Work and Social Policy Rasim Ljajić and exposed the problems which they had been dealing with for over a decade.

Actually, 12 years after the first abductions in Kosovo and Metohija the families whose members were abducted have not yet solved their existential problems because of the absence of legislation. For years they have been moving in vicious circles visiting various institutions and government authorities, still the problems are not being solved.

Many families suffer because they do not want to declare their missing

loved ones dead before they are found. Without material means, many of them are homeless, jobless, they live the hardest of days along with daily grief and sorrow. Despite the fortune, houses, apartments and property they left in Kosmet, they cannot provide the basic means of subsistence, because their property is registered to a kidnapped or missing member of the family.

Minister Rasim Ljajić promised to the representatives of the Association to do his best in the domain of his competences in order to solve these acute problems of the families in the best possible way, so that at least the suffering of the members of families of kidnapped and missing persons in Kosovo-Metohija is over in terms of their social issues.



Briefing Minister of Work and Social Policy Rasim Ljajić

## 400 Persons Transferred to Albania

### *Human Rights Watch*

Vanda Trosinska, a representative of Human Rights Watch, the organization dealing with the case of human organs trading in Kosovo and Albania, said that the information available to HRW indicated to the fact

that "at least 400 persons were transferred from Kosovo to Albania where every trace of them was lost".

The representative of the non-governmental organization Human





**CORNERSTONE FOR THE MONUMENT!** On 24 March, a cornerstone was laid for the monument in the memory of the victims perished in the period from 1999 up to date. The monument will be dedicated to kidnapped, missing and killed persons. It will be a unique memorial of the victims in Kosmet. On the occasion of 24 March – marking of the day of attack on our country in 1999 by the NATO Alliance, laying of the cornerstone and Christian cross for all kidnapped, missing and killed persons in the period from 1998 up to date was blessed in the presence of the leaders of the municipalities in Kosovo and Metohija, representatives of the Eparchy of Raška and Prizren Mr. Atanasije and Bishop of Lipljane Mr. Teodosije, as well as numerous families of kidnapped and missing persons. An appropriate ceremony took place after that, when the delegation of the Association was received in the building of the Priština municipality by the Mayor Mr. Nebojša Nikolić and member of the Committee for Building of the Memorial Mr. Đorđe Jeftić.

Rights Watch Vanda Trosinska said that they had asked from the authorities in Kosovo and Albania as well as from the most important international institutions to assist them in order to determine the fate of these missing persons, whose organs were suspected to be traded in, and discover what happened to them. She estimated that this case was particularly important because the alleged organ trafficking had occurred after constitution of international presence in Kosovo.

She added that there was sufficient material that gave grounds for

launching of an investigation and emphasized that the Council of Europe and EULEX were currently dealing with that issue in Kosovo.

“The UN Mission in Kosovo used to deal with this case in the past and it issued several reports which indicated to potential traces that should be additionally investigated. There are documents which have to be analyzed thoroughly; therefore, we hope that now, when EULEX decided to devote to this case, everything will be properly investigated”, Trosinska concluded.



#### NO PUNISHMENT FOR KIDNAPPERS

On 3 March, at Belgrade Office, Sian Jones, a representative of the humanitarian organization Amnesty International, had a meeting with the members of the Association of Families of Kidnapped and Missing Persons in Kosovo and Metohija and delivered the Human Rights Committee Report on the implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. In June last year, this humanitarian organization published a report under the title “Burying the Past - 10 years of Impunity for Forcible Disappearances and Abductions in Kosovo”, recognizing their concerns for continual impunity of criminal acts. Amnesty International said they were most intensive during 1998 and 1999 and continued after the war conflict in the Province. The authorities in Serbia and Kosovo were criticized for unsuccessful actions and disrespect of the right of the families and relatives to war indemnity and appropriate compensation.

## We Know the Names of Persons from the “Yellow House”

*The War Crimes Prosecutor Vladimir Vukčević*

The KLA offered the organs of the Serbs and non-Albanians to American clinics. There are several Russian and three Czech citizens among the victims.

- A great, high-quality progress was made in the investigation on trafficking with organs of abducted Serbs from Kosovo. I communicated new pieces of information found out by the Office of the War Crimes Prosecutor to the Special Envoy of the Council of Europe, Mr. Dick Marty, in Zurich. I believe that our findings will help in further investigation of these dramatic events - Vladimir Vukčević, the War Crimes Prosecutor, says in the interview for “Blic nedelje”.

- What new pieces of information do you estimate as particularly important?

- We found out the names of persons who have knowledge about the “yellow house”, actually of those who were in it and around it during the surgical interventions of the abducted people.

- Did you have any concrete contacts with those people and are they ready to talk about what was happening there?

- We have already talked to some of them, but the potential witnesses have a tremendous fear of revenge. Families of the most of them have become hostages of those who are ready to do anything in order to obliterate their criminal activities.



- Is it true that the KLA members offered the organs extracted in the "yellow house" for sale to some famous clinics in the West – from Europe to America?

- We have found some credible people who are ready to help us in the investigation. The organs were sold in the West and in the East, in Turkey, Saudi Arabia, etc.

- Have you recently received any new pieces of information in connection with this subject from Dick Marty?

- We have. It is mainly reduced to technical details which are very inter-

esting. For example, his associate was hit by stones in Albania, in the surrounding of the "yellow house". Also, according to the media, Dick Marty has not had a meeting with the right people in Priština yet.

- Are citizens of some other countries among the victims of the "yellow house"?

- There are indications that, apart to the Serbs and non-Albanians from Kosovo and Metohija, the victims were also a couple of Russian citizens and three persons from the Czech Republic.

## Accommodation for the Exiles

### Fates of internally displaced people

The project is supported by foreign donors and competent authorities in Aleksinac in charge of internally displaced persons. Accommodation is provided for the most vulnerable families. Vocational re-trainings and additional training of displaced persons was organized with assistance of the URC association from Niš and Commission for Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons of Aleksinac. At the territory of the Municipality of Aleksinac, 1,000 internally displaced persons from Kosovo and Metohija were located. In addition to about a hundred of those who have own houses and apartments the others live in rented accommodation. Two years ago, all three collective centres in this town on the River Moravica were closed, and through mediation of the Commissariat for Refugees of the Republic of Serbia and Italian humanitarian organization Inter-sos, the beneficiaries of these collective centres were provided with accommodation. Accommodation of other materially vulnerable displaced persons is currently conducted through many projects of international humanitarian organizations. Such projects are envisaged by local action plans for accommodation of internally displaced persons and refugees.

"The most vulnerable displaced persons are included in the farm purchase project conducted by Inter-sos and a number of families were provided in that way, including the ten-member family of Ljubomir Milošević. In addition to Inter-sos, the funds for this displaced family with eight chil-

dren were provided by the local self-government and the Government of the Republic of Serbia, considering that the farm price which they received exceeded the amount of 7,000 Euros as provided for by the project. Displaced families in Aleksinac who have started building own houses will soon apply for allocation of construction material donated by the Commissariat for Refugees of the Republic of Serbia", Dragan Jovanović, Commissioner for Refugees and Displaced Persons in Aleksinac pointed out. He also says that the majority of displaced persons who were accommodated in Aleksinac and the surrounding places do not have regular income and jobs, and only a small number of them receive minimum wages as former employees of the companies at Kosmet.

That is why the project of vocational retraining and additional training with support of the IRC association from Niš was launched. The Commissariat for Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons ensured the rooms where the displaced persons have an opportunity to study for crafts like hairdresser and tailor or get certificates for cosmeticians, butchers, plumbers and ceramists. At the moment, this project involves about a hundred of internally displaced persons who want to finish the required courses and schools in order to get jobs and income as soon as possible.



Delegation of the American Senate with the representatives of Serbian Associations from the former Yugoslavia and Head of ICRD Delegation Paul Henry Amir



## SEARCH FOR ABOUT 4,000 MISSING PERSONS

On 10 June at the Belgrade Hotel Slavija, the round table “Search for Missing Persons and the Rights of Their Families” was held, where the families of kidnapped and missing Serbs during the conflicts in the former Yugoslavia expressed their dissatisfaction with the dynamics in which the competent authorities solved the fates of their loved ones. President of the Coordination of Serbian Associations of Families of Missing Persons from the territory of former Yugoslavia Olgica Božanić reminded that after 11 years since the end of the conflicts the fate of about 4,000 missing Serbs has not been discovered yet.

- We demand opening of all archives and creation of a unique database on missing persons from the territory of former Yugoslavia. The priorities are processing of all crimes and regulation of the status of family members of kidnapped and missing persons. For full 12 years, the families of kidnapped and missing persons have been asking for exhumation at known locations which are assumed to hide mass graves

## CONCLUSIONS FROM THE CONVENTION

Coordination members are not satisfied with past work of judicial authorities, particularly when it comes to processing of the crimes committed against the Serbs and acquittals of the persons who were justifiably charged with committed crimes against Serbian victims. To that effect, the Prosecutor’s Offices and courts of the Republic of Serbia, Republic of Srpska and Republic of Croatia have to cooperate. They expressed their dissatisfaction with the treatment of Serbian victims by The Hague Tribunal as well as by local courts, which would be notified to the UN Committee for Human Rights. The Prosecutor’s Office will initiate an investigation against unknown perpetrators who relocated the graves. It was established that in the future the KFOR representatives should be invited to round tables as the party involved in the search process of missing persons in Kosovo and Metohija. The gathering came out with a proposal to ask for the report of the Special Envoy of the Council of Europe Dick Marty on the investigation of organ trafficking of kidnapped Serbs and other non-Albanians in Kosovo and Metohija.

President of ICRC Paul Henry Arni and Veljko Odalović, President of the Commission on Missing Persons of the Government of the Republic of Serbia.



## Corpses Identified, but the There is No Grave

Security experts wonder: who needed such a “discovery” on the eve of decision-making by The Hague Tribunal and arrival of Bramerc and at the time of new American pressure in regard to the UN Resolution 1422 (Source: “Nedeljni telegraf”)?

News agency France Press published on 10 May the following statement of the Serbian War Crimes Prosecutor Vladimir Vukčević about the latest finding near Raška: “Serbian Office of the War Crimes Prosecutor and EULEX representatives have jointly discovered a mass grave with mortal remains of about 250, most probably, Albanian persons from Kosovo”.

The following day, the Prosecutor said that neither the identity of the persons buried in the “potential grave” nor perpetrators were known, although, as he concluded on the fly, the suspects were already in The Hague. Vukčević did not guarantee that anything would be found at the suspicious location:

“Until excavation is finished, no one can say for sure if we are now on the right place or not.”

According to the unwritten rule, the foreign media announced only the first part of the news that a grave of Kosovo Albanians was found although its excavation has not started yet. A part of the Serbian public wonders what the Office of the War Crimes Prosecutor found at all if there were no corpses, if the identity was unknown, if the executors and how they were executed were unknown, and it is also uncertain if they were buried on the designated location at all.

- Titles like “Mass Grave Found” is a typical journalistic interpretation – the Public Relations Officer of the Office of the War Crimes Prosecutor Bruno Vekarić said. The correct wording should be “a potential grave” or “on track of a mass grave”. At the press conference, the Prosecutor said that there was a high probability that a mass grave was located there, but only when the corpses were found, it would be known if it really was there.

Search for a mass grave of Kosovo Albanians near Raška in 2007 was also carried based on the report of a witness, but without success.

- Then, a witness pointed out to a place and there were excavations as

deep as necessary, considering the relief – says Vekarić. – However, we are now almost sure that the potential grave is about two hundred meters further from the place where we excavated earlier.

In the official announcement of 10 May, the Office of the War Crimes Prosecutor wrote that “in cooperation with EULEX, we found a potential mass grave at the location of Rudnica near Raška, in Southern Serbia, where, according to the statements of witness, about 250 bodies of Kosovo Albanians were buried.”

The “potential grave” is located punctually. “On the basis of recent investigations, the mass grave is located in the yard of the company “Kosmet put”; partly on the parking in front of the facility which was built after the war conflicts in 1999 and party in front of the company’s building”. According to the Office of the War Crimes Prosecutor, the announcement says, the victims were first buried in three primary graves at Kosmet: Strelište near Prizren, Janjevo and in the yard of a transport company in Priština; then, they were excavated from these locations and transferred to the territory of Serbia. This was the sixth mass grave which was found on the territory of Serbia after democratic changes.

The Office of the War Crimes Prosecutor claims they received information about the grave from EULEX and witnesses, but the Office did not give away any more detailed information about them or origin of the photos taken from the air and showing the land with drawn grave location, presented by the media as the evidence of the Office of the War Crimes Prosecutor.

“In this phase of the investigation, we cannot disclose all details, and we certainly would not come out in public with irresponsible statements”, Vekarić says. “Although there is always one per cent of suspicion that something is not where we think it is. The fact is that we cooperate with EULEX on the subject matter and we think we have got not only a series of statement of the witnesses but also video records which indicate



that a mass grave could be there. We have the whole history of primary graves and corpse transfer here, as well as continual communication of the committees on missing persons, ours and the one from Kosovo. We have various demands from them, as well as they have from us.”

#### *Priština Has Reservation*

While Serbian Office of the War Crimes Prosecutor has respect for discretion of witnesses, the Office on Missing Persons of the Government of Kosovo announced in the media saying that their witnesses gave details about a mass grave near Raška.

“Excavations in 2007 were at a wrong place because we thought that the grave was a hundred meters further”, Kuštrim Gara from the Priština Office on Missing Persons says. “Now there are reasonable suspicions provided by witnesses, and on the basis of these suspicions and evidence we filed an official request at the meeting of the working group held on 19 February this year in Belgrade. According to the statements of the witnesses, it is thought that these are the bodies of Albanians from Kosovo who were kidnapped and went missing at the time of Milošević rule. But it is still early to talk about their ethnicity or exact number of the victims.

However, contradictions of the statements given by the alleged witnesses that the victims were Albanians and reservations of the Priština Committee that it was early to talk about ethnicity aroused doubts of the experts.

“How is it possible to announce the number of bodies and the nationality of the victims in a grave if not even a corpse was excavated?” – General Ninoslav Krstić from the Security and Democracy Forum wonders. “And what if these were the Albanians killed by the KLA or mercenaries who used to come over the Northern Albanian ports? What is the purpose of such announcements without clear evidence?”

“About six thousand foreign citizens fought on the side of the terrorists”, Professor Milan Mijalkovski from the Faculty of Security Sciences reminds, adding: “Volunteers and mercenaries used to come from all over the world by ships via the Albanian port of Durrës. A lot of Albanians from Albania, instructors from the West and Croatia, and muja-

hedeen from Arab countries were members of the KLA,

This security expert reminds that the Kosovo Albanians were kidnapped as long ago as 1991 by the KLA terrorists, which is not disputed by the international institutions.

“As many as one third of the total number of victims in Kosovo from 1991 to 1998 were the Albanians killed by the KLA”, Professor Mijalkovski says. “The KLA killed and kidnapped not only the Albanians loyal to Serbia, but also the ones who tried to be neutral. Mass graves of these victims have not been investigated up to date, although both our and Western services in particular know quite well where they are.”

Neither EULEX nor Albanian sources nor Serbian Office of the War Crimes Prosecutor disclose the origin of snapshots taken from the air where locations of mass graves are allegedly precisely marked. However, they do not contain the data such as the code of the recording device, geographic coordinates and the time of recording, although spy satellites or airplane cameras automatically write such information on the records.

#### *Either Limaj or Graves*

If these photos were authentic, then they must be 11 years old. The question is why they were not published earlier; particularly having in mind that NATO used similar photos in the war propaganda during the 1990’s

The first one to do so was Madeleine Albright claiming she had satellite records of “agitated land” in Bosnia which allegedly proved a mass grave and thus brought to pass the bombing of the Republic of Srpska.

On the eve of and during the bombing of Serbia in 1999, similar tactics of waving with air records of “potential graves” was often used as the “proof” of genocide over the Kosovo Albanians committed by the Serbs and 100,000 corpses in mass graves. Especially interesting was an official American criterion that a mass grave was every place where more than one body was buried!

However, after arrival of KFOR to Kosmet, the international forensic teams discovered that the greatest number of locations witnessed by “eye witnesses” and “recorded” by satellites were mere fabrications.

“Statements of witnesses and records of the land from the air were,



by the rule, the starting operational data which were only to be checked”, Professor Mijalkovski says. “A premature statement of a mass grave should have made an effect before arrival of The Hague Prosecutor Brammertz, but I’m not sure what consequences it will really cause. Judicial experts think that statements of witnesses and records of the land from the air are only indications of a mass grave, whereas the only evidence that it exists is the corpses, if excavated. After that, the forensic experts, through special proving procedures, have to ascertain the identity of each dead person and examine the cause of death.”

Certain military and security experts suspect that launching of the news of a mass grave of Albanians near Raška is a political manoeuvre of EULEX taken in order to calm down passions in Kosovo after arrest of Fatmir Limaj and Sabit Geci.

Namely, this policy of EULEX is deemed as direct threat to Hashim Taçi because the arrested men are high-ranking members of his secret service ŠIK (Sherbime informative i Kosovës) forbidden by the international administration due to their involvement in the organized crime.

- It seems the West “balances the damage” with a message “we arrested your Limaj and Geci, but we discovered a mass grave on the part of Serbs”, says General Ninoslav Krstić.

**The French Minister of Foreign and European Affairs Bernard Kouchner, after his visit to Belgrade arrived to Priština and Gračanica where he created, to put it mildly, a scandal in front of the journalists and cameramen when he had an assault of laughter in reply to the question what he knew about the “yellow house” where the organs of kidnapped Serbs had been supposedly extracted, and then he asked: “What is it the yellow house?” On this occasion, the delegation of the Association of Families of Kidnapped and Missing Persons in Kosovo and Metohija sent a letter of protest complaining for his disrespect of the victims and his improper conduct. The members of the Association were invited to visit the Embassy of France in Belgrade. On 31 March, they were received by the Ambassador of France in Belgrade Mr. Jean Francois Teral, because of the intolerable conduct of the Chief of French diplomacy Bernard Kouchner. At this meeting, Kouchner’s letter was handed over to the members of the Association saying: “France extends full support to the European civil mission of the rule of law EULEX, arranged in Kosovo so that this mission with its judges and prosecutors can conduct independent justice in the service of all. Once Dick Marty’s report is published, France will carefully observe if the elements of that report are fully taken into account.”**

#### *Cover for Albanian Federation*

General Krstić thinks that all the fuss made about the imprisonment and graves hides a much more important event that will have far reaching consequences.

- Nobody paid attention that KFOR and EULEX had left the border between Albania and the Albanian para state Kosovo to Kosovo Security Forces, which practically meant their federation which would be only formalized at a convenient time.

It is emphasized that the alleged mass grave of Kosovo Albanians “was found” at a very sensitive moment and the fact that the announcement of the Office of the War Crime Prosecutor wrote about a “potential grave” practically meant nothing.

“Nobody reads the announcement, but all global media broadcast: “Mass grave of Kosovo Albanians was found in Serbia”, Krstić says. “It is weird that the grave was found after 11 years, exactly when the International Court of Justice at The Hague had to decide if Kosovo’s proclamation of independent state was legitimate. On the other hand, this story appears when America is making pressure on Serbia to renounce the Resolution 1244 of its own. It is somehow coordinated with the time of passing the final Hague verdict to Generals Ojdanić, Lazarević and Pavković.



# 2011.

After thirteen years of fight to prove that our missing members of families were the victims of the most monstrous crime, unprecedented in the history of civilized Europe, we have finally experienced that a responsible, adamant and civilized man, the Special Envoy Dick Marty, confirms what we have been trying to prove all these past years.

## The Truth Has Won

*Ministers of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe passed the Resolution on Dick Marty's Report by huge majority.*

On the basis of this report, the Resolution was adopted calling the CE member countries and the international community for prompt action in order to shed the light to the whole case of inhuman treatment and organ trafficking. Thus, a serious political blow was inflicted on all those who supported the Albanian secession in Kosovo. Apart to rare exceptions, all council members took side of the rapporteur, praised his courage, objectivity and professionalism, and called for detailed and independent inquiry about everything that took place in Kosovo in connection with the facts that Marty mentioned in his report.

## Bidding with Serbian Tragedy Is 13 Years Long

Marking the twelfth anniversary since the beginning of NATO bombing of our country and on the occasion of adoption of Special Envoy Dick Marty's report on organ trafficking, the Association of Families of Kidnapped and Missing Per-

### *Dick Marty: Hitting a Nerve*

"The report is credible and hit a nerve", Dick Marty said before the session. "The document does not give evidence for prosecution, because I am not a prosecutor; I am an investigator and the report contains completely new details. Almost all elements were known. Scandalous is that some circles which were brought to power in Priština would close their eyes in front of criminal actions".

The assaults left marks on Marty, as he himself says, adding that he is not glad to be accused of being a liar and a Nazi, and he was especially hurt by the criticism of some colleagues who said he should better deal with the interests of Switzerland.

sons in KiM held press conference at the Media Centre Belgrade in March this year.

Talking about the tragedy that befell upon the families, President of the As-

sociation Verica Tomanović said that suffering of the Serbs is much more difficult because they were displaced and especially because of the fact that the families were powerless to discover the whole truth about their abducted loved ones. Non-observance and disrespect of numerous international documents adopted by the United Nations made the families of kidnapped and missing persons desperate.

"The fact that 24 March 1999 greatly affected the fate of the people from Kosovo and Metohija is obvious from the "results" of the intervention of the international community. The bombing solved nothing, but a series of extremely negative consequences resulted in the deportations, killings, abductions and destruction of the country", said President of the Committee on Missing Persons of the Government of the Republic of Serbia Veljko Odalović.

President of the Coordination of Serbian Associations on the territory of former Yugoslavia Nataša Šćepanović underlined that the importance of Dick Marty's report could not be compared to anything that had ever been done before for the families of the victims. Despite the fact that both associations made maximum efforts to have the truth revealed to the broad public, it was impossible as long as the most powerful men of the world did not permit it. Nobody ever cared about what was happening in Kosmet because of the prejudice that the Serbs were "bad" and that Serbian victims were not important. The justice has to be satisfied and the perpetrators of the crimes have to be prosecuted, including those who stood behind them and encouraged their crimes. We are afraid that everything will remain a dead letter and that the international community will not have the power to bring everything to light. The reason for suspicions is the fact that more than 30 Albanians who were supposed to witness the crimes committed by their compatriots had been killed.

Borislav Tajić, the representative of the Ministry for Kosovo and Metohija, underlined in his expose that this Ministry extended full support to continuation of the searching process of the missing persons.

Deputy Prosecutor of the War Crimes Court Mirosljub Vitorović highlighted that without witness protection, among other things, there will be no shift from the starting point. The question is if the competent authorities will succeed to protect these people in order to collect valid evidence. The fact is that in troubled times the worst people make the best of it, but in time both justice and the truth always come to light.



**"It is not my report on organ trafficking that is scandalous but the fact that witness killing in Kosovo did not move anyone in Europe and that everybody remained silent about it,"** said Special Envoy of CE Dick Marty.



**The "yellow house" is situated in the village of Riba near the town of Burel in the Northern Albania. The house is now white and the members of the family Katuči live there. The family denies their house has ever been a place where the prisoners had their organs extracted. At the beginning, members of the Katuči family denied that the house had ever been yellow, but when the investigators found traces of yellow colour under the present white façade, the family changed their story claiming that the house was painted white before a wedding party. Empty bottles of infusion fluid, preparations for muscle relaxation, bandages and needles were found near the house.**



## Briefing Beau de Marniak

*Delegation of the families of kidnapped and missing persons in Kosmet was received by EULEX in New Belgrade*

In May 2011, at the request of the members of the Association of Families of Kidnapped and Missing Persons in KiM and the Association of Kidnapped and Killed Persons, their delegations were received at the premises of EULEX in New Belgrade. The reason was Dick Marty's report and lack of information about what was done after its adoption by the Assembly of the Council of Europe. Since then, six months have passed and the families had no information about the actions taken after that.

EULEX Head of Mission Beau de Marniak notified the family members that due to bad communication between the EULEX service and himself he had not received the questions in time and promised to an-

swer them as soon as possible. The questions which were sent to him in a timely manner are:

- 1) Is there any progress in connection with the Report on Human Organ Trafficking of the Special Envoy of CE Mr. Dick Marty?
- 2) Has the court trial against perpetrators of kidnappings and murders of the Serbs and non-Albanians begun and for which cases per regions (Priština, Peć, Prizren, the Southern Morava and Kosovo-Mitrovica)?
- 3) Have KFOR, OSCE and UMNİK submitted the documentation from 1998 to EULEX judicature for inspection in 1998.

## We Have the Right to Dignified Life

*Press conference of the Coordination of Serbian Associations on the occasion of 10 December – the International Day of Human Rights*

The Chairwoman of the Coordination Nataša Šćepanović underlined that the victims should not be divided by religion or nationality, hence, the last memory of the people who had been forcibly taken away and become the victims of human organ trafficking is permanently presents as well as of their families who had been exiled from Kosmet and lived for 12 years as the citizens of the second order because they could not exercise their elementary rights.

Professor Duško Čelić, a member of the Association, pointed out that the rights of the families of kidnapped persons and the rights of the whole displaced population were collateral damage of political games. "We cannot

affect the politics, but we can raise our voices against what is happening". President of the Association of Families of Kidnapped and Missing Persons in KiM Verica Tomanović said that the families knew for years that their abducted loved ones had been in camps across Kosmet and Albania.

"We find out about their fates from the book of the former Prosecutor Carla Del Ponte and the adopted report of the Special Envoy Dick Marty. The anxiety that organs of our loved ones were traded is not just a story and a threat any more. The crimes unprecedented in the history of mankind were committed against our loved ones, while human organ trafficking is being covered up.

**On the right side, from the top downward, from left to right: With the members of the Coordination of Serbian Associations from the territory of former Yugoslavia who search for missing Serbs in Croatia; Executive Board of the Association with the representatives of the offices from Niš, Kraljevo and Gračanica; Association of Families of Kidnapped and Missing Persons in Kosovo and Metohija at the meeting with the Chief of EULEX expressed his dissatisfaction with the dynamics of identification and exhumation of the victims; Meeting with Albanian association at Miločer (in July); International Day of the Disappeared, the Republic Square; Associations of Families of Kidnapped and Missing Persons from the territory of former Yugoslavia in the Committee on Missing Persons of the Government of the Republic of Serbia, Serbian delegation.**





# 2012.

When one has money, everything is possible. Money can buy pleasure in terms of material wealth, but it can also ensure health and return youth to those with big bank accounts. Such people probably do not replace worn parts of their automobiles, because they are too rich to do so, but they can replace a kidney, liver, cornea, skin and heart whenever they want; all they have to do is give some money. Do they wait for new organs? Well, that is not a problem for them. They only have to pay to moral and dehumanized wretches to do the job and “procure” the needed organs. They kidnap a number of Serbs and get the organs free. After the war, with several hundred Euros, they pay to people from poor countries to sell their organs (and thus provide food for their families for a while) and, voilà, there is profit for resellers and pleasure for the buyers.

## Priština Knew about the Crimes

President of the Commission on Missing Persons of the Government of the Republic of Serbia Veljko Odalović estimated that the road in the investigation of human organs trafficking in KiM leads to the international community and the authorities in Priština and Albania! The most responsible chain link are representatives of the authorities in Priština who were commanders of the KLA regional units and, since 1999, the closest partners of

international missions in Kosovo – said Odalović, adding that the reports and, above all, the correspondence between the UN bodies dated in 2003 clearly indicate to that. They describe down to the tiniest detail the ways and manners of transport and names of abducted persons. Odalović claims that it is sufficient for indictment.

## Yellow “Medikus”

*Is there a link between trade in organs of the Serbs, Russians and Ukrainians?*

In the focus of the world and domestic public audience at the beginning of this 2012 was the acknowledgment that the Russian investigating authorities are conducting an official inquiry on the human organs trade (kidneys) of Russian citizens who were operated at the Priština clinic “Medikus”. If we compare this criminal offence to the one from the end of the 20th and the beginning of the 21st century,

at first glance they do not seem to have much in common except that illegal trade is still “flourishing”. The Serbs, non-Albanians and disloyal Albanians who were kidnapped by the KLA and transported like cargo to Albania to have their organs forcibly extracted and subsequently killed were the victims of war crimes, of the crimes against humanity, life and body and inhuman treatment.



**Attorney General of the Republic of Serbia Zagorka Dolovac talked on 18 January 2012 with Russian officials about assistance in solving of some important issues and speeding up solving of the issue of human organs trafficking. She underlined that some new facts and evidence would be disclosed very soon, which should help accelerate the solving process.**

The organ trade victims at the clinic “Medikus” – the Ukrainians, Russians, Moldavians, Bosnians and other citizens from our neighbourhood, are deceived people who were forced by hardship and poverty to sell parts of their bodies in order to survive. They were deceived with false promise of “fat money”; and they got nothing but disability. Unlike the first group, they were at least alive. What is the similarity between the crimes committed in 1998-2000 and the recent ones? The latter is only a continuation of the first one, only this time it is performed in a more subtle manner, using false promises and payment of money.

There is no war, there are less Serbs in Kosmet, and the international police are there, too; so, it is not that easy to abduct people, make camps, kill hundreds of Serbs and hide their bodies in mass graves. A lot of people think that at the time of anarchy in Kosmet at the end of the 1990s, the KLA got the idea to

make easy money coupled with ethnic cleansing from external factors, actually, from the leaders of organized secret groups dealing in human organs trafficking. Now, the fact that these were the Israelis, Turks and people from some Western countries is slowly coming to light.

Apparently, convincing the KLA members to get involved in the business was not difficult at all, as they looked forward to it. They got rich by selling the organs they got free of charge, killing the Serbs and non-Albanians, and cleansed Kosmet of the Serbs by spreading terror and fear across the Province. We will see if they will be punished for their crimes. We witness that some high officials from the Western countries were dismissed from functions, but it is still to be seen if detailed inquiry against them will be conducted and if the published facts about them will be confirmed.

## Rabin’s Bloody Money

*He paid for a kidney 10 and sold it for 160,000 dollars*

After shocking news that Rabin Itzhak Levy Rosenbaum was arrested on 23 July 2009 together with 44 persons in the American federal state of New Jersey, there were no further details about him or the extent of his involvement in the illegal trade in organs. He was, actually, arrested under suspicion of money laundering, involvement in some corruption affairs and active involvement in human organs trafficking. He was accused of “buying” organs from the bodies

of poor people who had come as migrant workers to his mother country and purchasing the organs of kidnapped Serbs and non-Albanians. He paid 10 dollars for a kidney and sold it for 160,000 dollars. He was soon connected with kidnapping of people from Kosmet whose organs were extracted in Albania and then sold, while the victims ended up in mass graves.



**EULEX together with Belgrade and Priština teams for missing persons will investigate 36 places where supposedly the mortal remains of the persons who disappeared during the conflict in Kosovo and Metohija could be found. With the Head of EULEX investigation team (Cihan Akyildiz) at the office of the Association**



## EULEX will Explore 36 Locations This Year

“EULEX forensic experts from the Division of Forensic Medicine will explore in the course of this year more than 30 potential locations as part of their constant search for persons who went missing during and after the conflict in Kosovo”, announced EULEX. The Division intends to explore the locations and execute exhumation in the regions of Đakovica, Peć, Klina, Prizren, Mitrovica, Srbica and Podujevo.

“The EULEX forensic experts will continue to work intensively at locality estimation, exhumations, autopsy and identifications”, said Head of EULEX Division of Forensic Medicine Alen Robinson. The Division of Forensic Medicine will continue to maintain connections with relevant authorities in regard to finding possible localities out of Kosovo. This year, EULEX expects to finish the examination of unidentified remains at the Division of Forensic Medicine.

“Investigation was required for the case revision project which took longer than two years, whose result was more than 30 new identifications. In the course of this year, additional 85 cases will be examined”, announced EULEX who will continue to support modernization of forensic medicine at Kosovo through close cooperation with local forensic experts and other specialists. Robinson said that significant progress was made in this field.

President of the Working Group on Missing Persons Lina Milner said at one time in Belgrade that there are 1,799 missing persons in Kosovo and Metohija of which 529 were of Serbian nationality, and that the process of shedding light on their fates is too slow.

**On the right: At the location of mass grave Žilivode**







**Cooperation and exchange of experiences: representatives of Serbian and Albanian Associations of Families of Kidnapped and Missing Persons (Nicosia), where they attended mass grave exhumation**

## “Protected” Crime

*Nancy Scheper-Hughes*

The job of Nancy Scheper-Hughes, Professor of Anthropology at the prestigious Berkeley University, looks more like a detective's than that of an academician.

Professor Nancy Scheper-Hughes from Berkeley became one of the greatest experts for the issue of human organs trafficking in 1990's owing to the investigation she lead after she had infiltrated in a human organs trafficking network, but she faced a wall of suspicion and isolation. Namely, a State Department report dated in 2004 claimed that “it was impossible to disguise the illegal trade in organs”. A few years later, police investigations in several countries to whom she assisted (Brazil, South Africa, USA, Moldova, Turkey and Israel) proved she was right. Zaki Shapira, one of the most famous Israeli surgeons and, as assumed, one of the members of the criminal organization who traded in human organs, was a member of the Ethnic Committee of the Rockefeller Foundation in

Bellagio, Italy, where he worked with Scheper-Hughes. “It was absurd. From 1996 to 1997 Zaki was a member of the Bellagio Task Force, the organization that fought against the international trade in human organs”, explains Professor Scheper-Hughes.

“I said to the Task Force director that Shapira was a well-known member of an international organization for trade in kidneys and that at the beginning of 1990's he and his partner Yusuf Sonmez used money of the Israeli health insurance and funds from money laundering in order to finance the international trade in human organs. In a Ponnier Point document, which Scheper-Hughes succeeded to obtain, Sonmez was boasting to have performed more than 2,200 illegal kidney transplantations, so she wondered how it was possible that the international trade in human organs was growing unnoticed. “All I can say is that trade in human organs is a “protected” crime in many countries. In conflicts, wars and natural

disasters as well as in many militarized countries, trade in human organs and human tissues exists”, Professor Scheper-Hughes says.

“Ten years had to pass until someone eventually wanted to listen to me. I possess the proof on what I am talking about. In the countries which were or which are still militarized, such as Israel, Brazil, Argentina or South Africa, people were killed because of their organs. I know it can be done and it is not even difficult to be done. Look at the example of China and what they did to their prisoners. Taking organs is not a problem. All you need are technical personnel and solution how to save the organs. Organization Euro transplant organizes transport of the organs for altruistic reasons throughout Europe all the way to Turkey.

According to Scheper-Hughes, during the military dictatorship in Brazil, the army regularly supplied transplant surgeons with the organs in order to meet the requirements of military men and their families for the organs.

“I talked to a former chief of the Brazilian Society of Nephrology, a brilliant university 90 years old professor. He told me they had been forced to do that. They had to diagnose brain death of persons who were not dead.

“In the inquiries of human organs trafficking, the names of former officers or persons close to the army often pop up, such as the retired Israeli General Zamir Meira, a hero of the Cyprus war who was accused by the Israeli court to be the leader of a criminal human organs trafficking network connected with Yusuf Sonmez, a Turkish surgeon involved in the Medikus case at Kosovo. And, it is not the only case. M.R, a farmer from San Cipriano d'Aversa near Napoli and a diabetes patient, was contacted by an American in 1998. M.R. met him in a bar which was regularly visited by American soldiers. The American gave him contact details of a Turkish clinic and the name of the surgeon – it was Sonmez, again. A new kidney and a new life cost 220 million liras, which is about 110,000 Euros. The case was archived and forgotten.

Trade in arms and trade in organs showed that those who came too close to the truth did not live long enough to talk about it. In May 1996, Xavier Bernar Gautier, a journalist of “Le Figaro” and an expert for the

Balkans, was found hanging in his apartment on the island of Menorka in Spain. Spanish authorities did not have much doubts of the cause of his death – a suicide. However, the circumstances were more than curious. He was found with his hands cuffed. On the house walls were written the words “Traitor” and “Red devil”, which was the nickname of Roberto Delle Fave, an Italian mercenary who had fought for the Croatian forces in Bosnia and who had disclosed to Gautier some details about arms trade toward Austria and organ trade toward Italy. A French journalist said to the press that Gautier was writing an article on “war criminals from the former Yugoslavia, including some important Italian officials”, that could have been fatal for him.

A couple of years later, the Trieste prosecutors Nicola Maria Pace and Federico Frezza followed a trace of organ trade of a Chinese immigrant between Italy and former Yugoslavia. Obviously, some surgeons felt like Robin Hood. They risk their carriers in order to enable organ purchase for those who face death waiting for transplantation. But, Scheper-Hughes does not believe these doctors do it for humanitarian reasons, adding that she knows a very famous Turkish doctor who performed operations with “obsolete” organs. “The doctors must not be allowed to perform transplantation of an organ which is extracted more than 100 hours before”, says Scheper-Hughes. “Transplant experts are aware of what is happening and they are not happy with that, but it suits them more to wash the laundry in their own house”.

Scheper-Hughes started an inquiry in Brazil about kidnappings whose purpose was organ removal. Once she secretly infiltrated into an adoption agency maintained by a former nun. Scheper-Hughes told the former nun that she needed a child. “I want a healthy child, eight or nine years old, because my son needs a kidney. I want to adopt it until transplant surgery. After that I will return the child and pay the price you ask if the sum is reasonable”. The children dealer said: “Listen, you will find a child, it's not a problem. You can do whatever you want with it. But I don't want to see it again. Take it, it is yours. What you will do with it, it's your business”.



### COMMON GOAL, A STEP FORWARD

Members of Serbian and Albanian associations of families whose loved ones were kidnapped or missing met on 18 and 19 June in Priština at the premises of EULEX, where they talked about the problems which the members of families of kidnapped persons often faced. At the meeting at EULEX, Alen Robinson explained their current activities and expressed his pleasure with the level of cooperation. Director of the Institute for Identification Arsim Grdžaliju confirmed they had a lot of problems in work, but that the identification rate is quite high. On the occasion of reception at the British Embassy, the family members of both associations were offered assistance. The issue of documents revision was mentioned, referring to executed identifications by classic method which proved rather unreliable in many cases; then, the reports on last year's work of EULEX as well as the report on past exhumations were presented.



The Second Ordinary Assembly of the Coordination of Serbian Associations of Families of Missing Persons from the Territory of ex-Yugoslavia

## Why Is the Tragedy of the Serbs Diminished?

*Press conference of the Coordination of Serbian Associations of Families of Missing Persons from the territory of former Yugoslavia*

At the press conference held on 15 June at Media Centre in Belgrade under the title "Disappeared, Killed and Forgotten", the work plan of the Coordination of Serbian Associations of Families of Missing Persons from the territory of former Yugoslavia was presented for the first time. This conference was also an opportunity for the families to express through their representative their dissatisfaction with what the authorities had done in regard of the issue of missing persons from the territory of former Yugoslavia. The attitude of the authorities toward the problem of finding and identification of kidnapped, missing and killed persons reflected in the fact that press conference was attended only by the representatives of SPS, Prosecutor's Office and ICMP. Greeting the attendees, the President of the Coordination of Serbian Associations of Families of Missing Persons from the territory of former Yugoslavia Nataša Šćepanović formalized the work of the Coordination and expressed her dissatisfaction saying the politics divides not only the nations but also the victims, underlining that the Serbs are marked as the principal and only culprits and their tragedy is still marginalized.

### *We Search...*

The camps in Kosovo and Albania are mentioned with fear. But, 2,000 people did not disappear on their own, 61 camps for the Serbs in Bosnia and 24 in Podrinje, dozens of camps in Croatia and Kosmet did not just crop up. Why is there silence about mass graves of the Serbs? We have done everything to bring the truth to light, but double standards in treatment of the victims are still present. We demand the archives to be opened, we trusted the international community, we sent data to it, but there are no results. We demand that exhumations and identifications are performed faster. We do not pursue politics. We demand our rights are not denied, Nataša Šćepanović said.

Talking about solution for this long-lasting problem, President of the Government Commission on Missing Persons Veljko Odalović pointed out that all their activities were directed to the countries in the region in order to facilitate the search, settle difficult processes and improve cooperation with Bosnia and Croatia, which was getting better. As regards Kosovo, the question regarding continuation of works at Livačko Lake was still open. He underlined that there were no new exhumations and identifications and no progress in the investi-

gation of illegal human organs trade in Kosovo and Metohija, or Albania. Namely, at the Priština morgue, parts of a body were found which had been probably brought from Orahovac. All those bone samples were sent for DNA analysis and it was established they all belonged to mortal remains of the previously identified missing Serbs and non-Albanians who had already been handed over to the families and buried. Bone samples did not match blood samples of the families who were still searching for their missing loved ones. "How shall we tell the truth, new facts about this, notify the families who buried their identified missing loved ones and hurt their wounds again? It will depend only on the families", Veljko Odalović pointed out, "if they want to take over the newly found mortal remains of their missing loved once. If they make up their minds to do so, all costs of take-over and burial shall be borne by the Commission on Missing Persons of the Government of Serbia.

### *Finding of Missing Persons is the Priority*

According to Dragan Pjevač, President of the Management Board of the Coordination, the task number one is finding missing persons and determining the number of killed Serbs. "I don't think it is good that the Commission on Missing Persons works within the Commissariat for Refugees; it has to be connected with the government institutions which will guarantee more serious and detailed work. In Croatia there are still 385 unidentified persons although

exhumation was done long ago. Double standards still apply in regard to Serbs, whose suffering is neglected while others are shown as the only victims", Pjevač said.

Nedeljko Mitrović is indignant and says that the families of missing persons were dead weight in the war and they remain dead weight in peace for our society. Presence and/or absence of invited participants obviously indicate to their attitude to the problem. And, what can be expected of the others who present the Serbs as the victims "in small vials", while the victims of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia are shown in thousands. Member of the management board of the Coordination Mirjana Božin expressed her fear that a lot of missing persons will never be found due to new obstacles. "How many years have to pass to have the remaining 14 thousand abducted and killed Serbs found", she wondered.

### *Obstacles to Truth*

President of the Association of Families of Kidnapped and Missing Persons in Kosmet Verica Tomanović said that tragedy and abduction of the members of families in Kosovo and Metohija was a much talked about topic and that there were still many obstacles in finding the truth about the fate of these people.

"Numerous meetings with government and international institutions, work-



ing groups and meetings of regional associations have been held but without expected results”, she said and underlined the violation of the UN SC Resolution 1244 that guaranteed safety and security of all citizens in Kosovo and Metohija, violation of all conventions, declarations and protocols on the protection of human rights and the basic right to life. “The chances for exchange of imprisoned and forcibly abducted persons have slipped. They were left to be the victims of ineligible politics. Full 14 years have passed since the first abductions and we have not succeeded to find the truth about our abducted and missing family members yet. We wonder almost every day: Where shall we light the candle? Where are our children, sisters, fathers...? We know that many who knew the answers have been hiding it cleverly from us. At the meetings, we were given carefully fabricated answers, while we are still persistently asking the same questions: Why is the truth taken from us? In the area of Kosovo and Metohija, even at the time of peace, people were abducted and tortured, trade in people and their organs existed, while the responsible institutions kept silent, hiding and destroying the evidence and prolonging our agony. They are hiding

## Activities of the Association in 2012

Among numerous activities of the Association, Verica Tomanović, President of the Association, mentioned the meetings of Working Groups of the Committees on Missing Persons from Belgrade and Priština where the representatives of the Association took part, the meetings with the International Committee on Missing Persons from the territory of former Yugoslavia with head office in Sarajevo, participation in the Regional Work of all associations of kidnapped and missing persons from the territory of former Yugoslavia, meetings with the representatives of Albanian Associations on Missing Persons in Kosovo. The Association organized marking of the abduction of the miners from Belačevac Mines on 22 June; abduction of the villagers of Retimlje and Opteruša and the citizens of Orahovac on 18 July while the memorial service was held on 28 June, Vidovdan, at the Church of St. Mark in Belgrade as well as memorial services in Gračanica, Kraljevo and Niš. On the occasion of the International Day of Missing Per-

behind the numbers, lists, analysis and tables, and have done nothing to return the alive to the living and the deceased to the dead. The crime over their families continues” —Verica Tomanović highlighted and asked:

“How long will there be silence about the unprecedented crimes ever recorded by KFOR and The Hague Tribunal and confirmed existence of 144 camps, whereas ICRC has never given us the lists of the imprisoned or information about the fate of the people who were forcibly abducted and imprisoned.

And everything is known. The satellites have netted the sky over us recording and taking pictures of everything, while we know nothing. Although the investigation on trade in people and extraction of their organs has been opened, we have not been acquainted about the outcome of such inquiry conducted by John Clint Williamson. A lot of facts are known, but there is a deliberate silence and hardly anyone is taken to justice. The criminals are still free and the victims live in their own prisons of despair, pain and sorrow”, Verica Tomanović said.

sons on 30 August, press conference was held at Media Centre and wreaths were laid on the memorial plaque on the Sava Square in Belgrade. The Association organized joint visit of the representatives of Serbian and Albanian Associations of Families of Missing Persons to Cyprus where they met Greek and Turkish Associations who had been searching for their loved ones for 39 years. Meeting with the International Committee on Missing Persons was held in Skopje on 20 November 2012, as well as visits to the Embassies of the countries who have their representatives in the international military and civilian missions in Kosovo and Metohija (in Belgrade and Priština). Daily excursions were organized for the family members of the Association (Kragujevac, Orašac, and Monastery Denkovac). The Association members participated in round tables and conferences.

# 2013.

**K**osovska Mitrovica, 2013 – “Unlike the Muslim cemetery where none of the monuments have been touched and the cemetery was properly mowed and fenced, the Orthodox cemetery looked as if a huge excavator passed through it. Undamaged monuments can be counted on the fingers of one hand. When I was at the cemetery on the Souls’ Day before the Day of Decent of the Holy Spirit, the monument of my deceased loved one was standing up. Though the picture was taken away, the monument was there, standing up. Now, it was demolished and the frame around the grave, although made of concrete, was almost grounded”, says Malina Dekić, who visited the Orthodox cemetery in the Southern Mitrovica on the Souls’ Day.

## Give Us New Information about Missing Persons

### *ICRD's Appeal*

Working Group for solving of the fates of missing persons in Kosovo held the 11th Open Meeting in May in Priština. Lina Milner on behalf of the International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) presided the meeting.

Last year, the representatives of Belgrade and Priština met within the working group and made attempts to shed the light on the fates of missing persons by checking the available information and conducted field activities at potential grave locations such as Rudnica, Raška and Košare. It was said that in 17 months only the fates of 48 cases were elucidated and that hundreds of families still had no answers about what had happened with their loved ones and where they were. For further progress it is of crucial importance to make some concrete actions. “It’s high time the authorities come up with new details which are absolutely necessary for the progress in the search process for missing persons”, says Lina Milner, the Chairwoman of the Working Group. Veljko Odalović an-

nounced new excavations of potential graves.

Verica Tomanović underlined that for over 14 years the Association of Families of Kidnapped and Missing Persons in Kosmet had insisted on urgent and unconditional solving of the fates of missing persons and stoppage of manipulations with victims and their families.

ICRC issued the 5th edition of the Book on Missing Persons which contains the names of 1,754 persons who were reported missing by their families. The book is intended to be used in the search process as well as a reminder that for over 14 years 1,700 families of various ethnic origins have been living in uncertainty, expecting to find out what happened to their loved ones. The book will be distributed to the authorities and public audience both across the region and in all places where the families of missing persons live. “ICRC appealed to the public audience, the authorities and everyone who may have any information about what happened to the missing persons to share such information”, Milner said.





#### IT WILL LINGER UNTIL FORGOTTEN

The “yellow house” will be the topic for about two to three years and then it will be forgotten. As regards the investigation of organ trade of kidnapped Serbs, the famous lawyer Toma Fila says that this case will be the topic for about two to three years longer and then the case will linger until forgotten. “It is intriguing that an American (John Clinton Williamson) was brought to solve it, because America managed the whole story and they are the one who is determining the fate of Kosovo. America has created the state of Kosovo, NATO is controlling it and has the base in Kosovo. Don’t you really think they will let it be compromised just like that?” the defense attorney of Serbian prisoners in The Hague Toma Fila said.

According to the international humanitarian right and the international law on human rights, the families are entitled with the right to be notified about the fates of their missing relatives. It is the primary responsibility of the authorities and former parties in the conflict to provide such answers. During a decade of war conflicts in the Balkans in the 1990’s, more than 30,000 people went missing. Even today, more

than 12,000 persons are still on the lists of missing persons maintained by the ICRC. Only when they find out what happened with their loved ones, the families of missing persons will find peace and leave the horrible events that upset their lives behind.

## Hiding the Truth Is in No one’s Favor

### *Meeting of the representatives of the Associations of Families of Missing Serbs and Albanians in the organization of ICRC in Miločer*

In May, in the organization of ICMP, the meeting was held including the representatives of the Associations of Families of Kidnapped, Missing and Killed Serbs and Albanians in Kosovo and Metohija and members of the Working Groups on Missing Persons of Belgrade and Priština.

The meeting was opened by Matthew Holiday, coordinator of the Division of Justice and Civil Society Initiative. He dedicated special importance to the Report on ICMP Work in 2012, presented statistical data on the number of blood and bone samples for DNA analysis and men-

tioned that in the past years the ICMP had been especially focused on capacity strengthening of the Associations of Families of Kidnapped and Missing Persons in the region.

He reminded of joint meetings and conclusions brought on the occasions which steered the future work and activities on solving the fates of missing persons. The representatives of the Association reacted to discrepancy of the data published in the EULEX 2012 report and ICMP report. Due to absence of EULEX representatives, the family members



#### USURPATION OF INVESTIGATION

Moscow accused the EU for failing to conduct the investigation of allegations that the KLA members traded in organs of prisoners during the conflicts in Kosovo at the end of 1990’s.

“We have a non-constructive stance of the European Union which usurped the investigation which is now tramping in the dark”, said the Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs Sergey Lavrov, adding that in his opinion “the EU is even slowly closing the inquiry”. Lavrov mentioned in his statement the Special Investigation Team of the European Union who is in charge to investigate the allegations of human organs trade contained in the 2010 report by the Council of Europe Special Reporter for Human Rights Dick Marty. The investigation of organ trade has been in the focus of attention since last year when Radio Television of Serbia broadcasted an interview with a former KLA member who claimed that in 1999 he had extracted organs of Serbian prisoners in the Albanian city of Kukeš. Kosovo and Albania rejected the accusations of organ trade, while Serbia insisted that the investigation should be carried by the United Nation’s team, which is in accordance with the Resolution 1244 on Kosovo of 1999. Lavrov said that Russia “supports the attitude of Belgrade that the UN gets involved in the investigation instead of the EU.”

were deprived of the right to get correct data.

Representatives of the Associations of Families of Missing Albanians and Serbs agreed on the possibility to carry out joint activities. It was agreed to hold two round tables (conferences), one in Belgrade and another in Priština on the topic: Acceleration of the Exhumation and Identification Processes of Missing Persons in Kosovo and Metohija and the Rights of the Survived Family Members, as well as travelling exhibition of personal items of missing persons and articles of the children of missing persons.

Jasminka Džumhur, member of the UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances from Geneva, informed the participants about the rights according to the International Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearances, which came into effect in 2010. According to this Declaration, all members of families of kidnapped and missing persons have the right to lodge a complaint to the Working Group, which renders assistance.

After presentations of both delegations and their argumentation for the backwardness of the process of finding out the truth about kidnapped, missing and killed persons, it was concluded that there is a lack of information. In the interest of both Serbian and Albanian families it

is important to support the work of the International Commission of Inquiry mandated to establish the facts and conduct a professional investigation of trafficking in persons for the purpose of organ removal, including review of all archives, possibility to use satellite records and checkup of terrain locations in connection with the conflict in Kosovo and Metohija and on the territory of Albania and Macedonia.

Verica Tomanović’s presentation was aimed at acceleration of the process of finding out the truth on missing persons, which is accompanied by numerous objective and subjective problems related to available information or its hiding, due to which nobody is satisfied with the number of executed exhumations and identifications.

The conclusions passed at the previous meetings are hardly mentioned and they are generally not implemented. The attitude of all, the organizers of the meeting and associations of the victims and particularly of the institutions and organizations who deal with the issue of missing persons and who are expected to accelerate the process of finding out the truth about missing persons, has to be changed in order to achieve better results.





**Meeting at the office of the Association with the President of Amnesty International Sian Jones. From left to right: Snežana Perenić, Dragica Majstorović, Milanka Petrović, Sian Jones, Verica Tomanović; Below: Slobodanka Spasić, Olgica Božanić, Cica Janković**

# 2014.

When the Secretary General of the United Nations Ban Ki-moon, after the report on the situation in Kosovo was read, invited the authorities in Belgrade and Priština to make efforts in order to establish the fate of missing persons and shed the light on all war crimes, the question arose if the investigation of the fate of over 1,700 missing citizens from Kosovo (Serbs, Albanians and other ethnic groups) will move from a standstill. According to the members of families of missing persons and domestic non-governmental organizations who deal with it, the voice from the top arrived after a long silence of the international community who had pushed the issue under the carpet. In Brussels, the issue of missing persons has not come on the negotiating table yet. Associations of Families of Missing Persons of the Serbs and Albanians mutually cooperate and make efforts to find the way in order to finally solve their long-lasting problems. Hence, the representatives of both associations whole-heartedly accepted the proposal that the year 2014 is pronounced as the year of missing persons. On the territory of former Yugoslavia, the search for 12,870 missing persons is still on.

## Continuation of “Ohrid 1”

*Conference of Serbian and Albanian Associations in Skopje in the organization of ICMP*

The topic was the future of the process of search and identification of missing persons in Kosmet, but it was prevailed by the conversation about domestic legislation with unregulated section that refers to missing persons, without data and unified records on war crime trials, as well as ensuring sustainability of the process of finding and identification of missing persons, memorial plaques and joint commemoration. Above all, encouraging words came from the representatives of the International Committee on Missing Persons Catherine Bomberger and Matthew Holiday and adequate answers in regard of finding of missing persons from the competent institutions, who all attended the meeting,

The unified list of kidnapped and missing persons in Kosmet, fifteen years after the first abductions of Serbian civilians and kidnappings that followed on one and the other side, still contains 1,763 persons, of which

530 Serbs. There is few encouraging news. The greatest number of kidnapped and missing persons is still maintained as missing, and their families have not yet found the truth about the fates of their loved ones or exercised any rights guaranteed by the international conventions and declarations.

As underlined in the talks of the representatives of Serbian Associations of families of kidnapped and missing persons, suffering of innocent and also suffering of their families up to date have become a kind of symbol of the impotence of institutions and organizations of the international community to implement the documents they themselves signed and implemented very ardently in their own countries. Almost fourteen years have passed since signing of the UN Security Council Resolution 1244 and Military-Technical Agreement in Kumanovo, but without any results.

## Everywhere in the World the Victims Are Mentioned with Reverence, We Have to Do So, Too

*Meeting of the Associations of Families of Missing Persons, Priština*

Everywhere in the world the victims are mentioned with reverence. We have to do so, too, regardless of the nationality. This was said during a three-day workshop at Hotel “Emerald”. How to overcome the present and determine the future, remove prejudices and improve mutual relationships, were some of the themes of this three days long convention of the Associations of Families of Missing Persons in Kosovo which was held in Priština from 9 to 12 March. It was actually a continuation of the talks started at Kopaonik where family members of the Serbs and Albanians expressed their concerns for backwardness in finding of missing persons. That, however, should not be the reason of mutual molestations because they were all, without any fault of their own, brought to an almost unbearable situation. The people, who gathered there, without exception and regardless of nationality, were all losers. According to

Gordana Ristić: “We lost our loved ones, but we have to figure out a civilized, non-violent manner to search for our family members and pay attention to avoid coming in a situation when our tragedy would be politicized. We have to talk about all victims with reverence.” During the conference it could be heard that representatives of the international community knew everything about every missing person, but that it suited some people to leave the status quo. Participants of this gathering demanded to make contacts with the Assemblies of Serbia and Kosovo in presence of competent international institutions in order to have this issue raised to a higher level. It was also concluded that they should renew joint activities: visits to the Embassies in Belgrade and Priština, meetings with EULEX and Special War Crimes Court in Belgrade, in order to find out where the investigations arrived at.





**Delegation of the Association of Families of Kidnapped and Missing Persons at excavation of mass grave Rudnica near Raška**

It was concluded that press conference should be held after every workshop in order to make public announcements of achieved results. Once more the question was raised about work efficiency in order to accelerate exhumations. Also, the gathering demanded full truth about disappearances and fates of the victims, 1,721 of them from both associations. They are the missing persons of all nationalities whose fate is still unknown.

An activity plan was adopted for the year 2014 - the Year of Missing Persons, starting from visits to the Embassies in March, a visit to Orahovac in April, lobbying for group reactivation, and ending with the visit to Norway, where a youth workshop would be held. Young people should get involved in work so that the Associations can continue their involvement until the last missing person is found or his/her fate is elucidated.



#### THE STATE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

At the session of the Management Board of the Coordination of Serbian Associations of Families of Missing Persons on the territory of former Yugoslavia, Associate Professor dr Dušan Čelić presented a proposal of the project on drafting Model Law on Missing, Killed and Fallen Persons in armed conflicts from 1991 to 2000. At the session of the Management Board of the Coordination of Serbian Associations of Families of Missing Persons on the territory of former Yugoslavia held on 21 February 2014, special attention was paid to the project proposal by dr Dušan Čelić on the kind of Model Law on Missing, Killed and Fallen Persons in the conflicts on the territory of former Yugoslavia in the period from 1991 to 2000 and the rights of their families that should be implemented in order to have their problems finally solved. The author of the project proposal dr Dušan Čelić exhaustively explained the purpose and objectives of the project, related activities, their beneficiaries as well as the persons who would participate in the project of the Law. The aim was to underline the government responsibility for human rights violation and special goals which would be regulated by the law. Beneficiaries would be family members. The proposal was unanimously supported, as well as the proposal of the project "Our Tragedies Are Not Oblivion" presented by the Coordination President Dragan Pjevač. The session adopted the Rule Book on Work of the Coordination Management Board and the Report on Work at the Amendment of Registration pursuant to the decision of the Assembly. Also, the participants discussed a number of current issues regarding the Coordination activities.

## No Indications of the Identity of 351 Victims

### *The meeting of the Working Groups of Belgrade and Priština on missing persons*

At the meeting of the Working Groups on Missing Persons of Belgrade and Priština, it was said that they were not satisfied with the results of conducted investigations aimed at elucidation of the fates of missing persons and announced that this year 2014 had to be the key one because it was marked as the Year of Missing Persons. The results for the year 2013 are not good because only 45 cases were solved last year.

Apart to the delegations of these two cities, the meeting held on 11 February this year in Belgrade was also attended by the representatives of the International Committee of Red Cross. The participants of the meeting discussed delays in solving the fates of missing persons and the tasks that should be prioritized. It was said that the locality near Raška was investigated and that new identification methods were found for mortal remains of 351 persons kept at the Priština morgue for a long period of time.

Representative of the Belgrade group Veljko Odalović said at the occasion that investigation of the locations at Bor and Kuršumlija are planned for this year. These are the places supposed to hide mortal re-

mains of missing persons. Investigation of the location Rudnica, suspected to be the burial place of missing persons, will be continued. Provided weather conditions are favorable, the investigation of Rudnica near Raška will start in March or April. Orlović said that the previous year was marked by finding of mortal remains at Rudnica near Raška, the place of vain attempts to find mortal remains for the previous seven years.

- We used to get such information in continuity from representatives of the Kosovo delegation, UNMIK and EULEX. The location of Rudnica will be our priority this year and we expect that works at this location will be finished in 60 days. We expect mortal remains of two bodies found at the location to be identified in 20 days – said Veljko Odalović. He regretted there were no indications of identification of 351 bodies kept at the Priština morgue. Odalović underlined that Belgrade would demand that the locations of Livačko Lake near Gnjilane and Košare are investigated again. Special Prosecutor of the EU Clint Williamson greatly contributed to elucidation of the fates of missing persons.





Management Board of the Association, November 2014: Silvana Marinković, Olgica Božanić, Miloš Trifunović, Verica Tomanović, Negovan Mavrić, Brankica Antić, Dragiša Murganić; in the photo to the right: Dragana Majstorović, Dostana Petrović, Igor Todorovski, Milica Radunović



Working Groups of Belgrade and Priština, the Committee on Missing Persons with Lina Milner (ICRC)



Regular meeting of the Assembly of the Coordination of Families of Kidnapped and Missing Persons

## 1797 Serbs and Albanians Are Missing

*Serbian and Albanian families meet more and more often and send joint appeals for finding of their missing relatives as soon as possible*

About 400 bodies, which were exhumated in the area of Kosovo and Metohija, are still waiting for identification at the Priština morgue. The families of kidnapped and missing members of Serbian and Albanian associations persistently repeat this issue to the competent authorities and demand from them to perform exhumations and identifications much faster so that finally, after 15 years, this issue comes to an end.

In addition, processing of the perpetrators has to be performed in accordance with the law as it is one of the conditions for mutual reconciliation. Coordinator of the Associations of Families of Kidnapped and Missing Persons in Kosovo and Metohija Milorad Trifunović once said that there were great problems in protection of the witnesses who would appear in the court and speak of the crimes committed on the territory.

"There are people who would like to speak about what happened, because the truth is that a man cannot keep a heavy burden for himself, especially when it is somebody's life. Sometimes the criminals alone come and say what

they did. I beg all institutions tasked to pursue the cases of missing persons to make maximum efforts, especially at witness protection". He does not think that reconciliation between two nations is possible until all criminals are brought to justice and the fate of all missing persons is elucidated.

Trifunović wondered: "Why would I see a criminal and a culprit for abduction of my brother in every Albanian when I am sure it's not like that. And how shall I convince my child or a child of a disappeared parent who was ten or just born at that time and who is 14 or 15 today that it's not like that? I am making an appeal to the authorities of both Serbia and Kosovo but also to the international representatives in Kosovo, to pay more attention to the issue of kidnapped and missing persons, a total of 1797 Serbs and Albanians, was not on the meeting agenda for talks between the Prime Ministers of Serbia and Kosovo. Unfortunately, the words such as tardiness in investigations, exhumations and identifications are still topical.

## Where does the Empathy for Victims Disappear?

*"Bogujevci – Visual History" in the Belgrade Cultural Center*

At the end of December, an exhibition held in Belgrade about the tragedy of the Albanian family Bogujevci who had been killed by the Scorpions in 1999 caused turbulent reactions of the public. With due respect to all victims of wars, organization of this exhibition in Belgrade, after so many years, provoked resignation, not because of brothers Bogujevci, but because it is unimaginable for the Serbs to even think of organizing something like that in Priština. And they would have quite a number of documents to exhibit.

Out of a huge number of killed and abducted Serbs, Romani and other non-Albanians, we will mention just several examples: the abduction and murder of the whole family of Šutaković from Đakovica: father Nedeljko, mother Darinka and three under age sons, or the family Rajković – Mirjana, Slavoljub and Violeta from Priština, or the four-member family Sekulić from the Priština settlement Sunčani breg; then, the 14-member family Kostić, the four-member family Božanić or the never established number of Romani families who disappeared without any trace from Metohija villages. There are too many examples; we mentioned only the most drastic ones. And no-

body remembered to mention these victims in the similar way. The Prime Minister has never visited the Association of Families of Kidnapped and Missing Persons in Kosovo and Metohija (and the premises are in the very center of Belgrade) or seen the walls full of pictures of killed and missing persons. He could find the time for the Bogujevci exhibition, but never for the Serbian victims.

All these years, which is a decade and a half, Serbian public has remained cold for the disaster of the Kosovo Serbs. When the families of missing persons would come in front of the Government or when they would come to the small memorial plaque in Tašmajdan Park or on the Sava Square, the comments could be heard that they were making crowd and traffic jam.

It is shocking what kind of people we have become! Insensitive to somebody else's tragedy and to everything that does not concern us personally; it does not touch us. And then, a logical question arises: if we, the Serbs, do not care about the crimes committed against such a great number of our own people, why would the others care about it?



# 2015.

Since 11 June 1999, the KLA members were perpetrators of unprecedented large-scale violence in Kosovo and Metohija. The number of killed civilians grew every day to result in the exile of 250,000 people. All cases were reported to the International Committee of Red Cross, KFOR police, UNMIK and OSCE. The impression is that, when Serbian and non-Albanian victims are concerned, all these organization were only the spectators of the abductions", says Verica Tomanović, President of the Association of Kidnapped and Missing Persons in Kosovo and Metohija.

## Serbs and Albanians Search for the Missing Together

The Association of Missing Persons in Kosovo and Metohija and the Association of Missing Albanians agreed with the families to search for their missing loved ones together. It was said by the Coordinator of the Association of Missing Persons in Kosovo and Metohija Milorad Trifunović after the gathering "Non-Governmental Associations of Missing Persons – Example of Best Practice and Cooperation Between the Communities" held in Priština. Trifunović told Beta News Agency that politics was still the principal obstacle in solving the fates of

missing Serbs and Albanians.

"We think that the criminals are still protected. Some criminals occupy top positions in the government institutions on both sides and I think it's high time we make the things straight", Trifunović said. Besides, he expressed his belief that the international community and important figures in some countries "have interests of their own to keep on hiding the truth about missing persons". Accordingly, he estimates, people who committed the crimes are protected.

## More Than 500 Missing Serbs Have Not Been Found Yet

Representatives of the Association of Kidnapped and Missing Persons in Kosovo and Metohija published that 525 persons have not been found after 17 years. Up to date, 361 persons were buried and nobody was punished for that.

President of the Association Verica Tomanović says that there is no genuine reconciliation unless the criminals are convicted and unless the

kidnapped and missing persons are found. "Since the beginning of work of our Association, our appeals for passing of the law on missing persons have been submitted to all representatives of the authorities. Up to date, we are not aware of the reasons why this problem is still unsolved", says Mrs. Tomanović adding they suspect that data about missing persons are intentionally blurred.



Marking of the fifteenth anniversary of work of the Association of Families of Kidnapped and Missing Persons in Kosovo and Metohija. Press conference on 14 March, Media Centre, Belgrade

"As from 11 June 1999, the KLA members were perpetrators of unprecedented large-scale violation in KiM. The number of killed civilians grew every day to result in exile of 250,000 people", Verica Tomanović thinks.

She indicates that the Serbs and other non-Albanian citizens experienced immense psychic and physical perishment in front of 50,000 KFOR soldiers.

"All cases were reported to the International Committee of Red Cross, KFOR police, UNMIK and OSCE. The impression is that, when Serbian and non-Albanian victims are concerned, all these organization were only the spectators of the abductions", Tomanović says.

She reminds that after signing of the UN Resolution 1244, KFOR was obliged to provide safety and security, but it was not done. Deputy of the War Crimes Prosecutor Miroljub Vitorović says that he is not an op-

timist that all missing persons will be found because, he says, the crimes were committed in such a way that the bodies can never be found.

He mentioned the case "Gnjilane" saying that the command was to have the bodies of the Serbs torture, butchered and dismembered.

Representatives of the Association conclude that despite numerous meetings with domestic and international representatives of the authorities, they have not succeeded to discover the truth.

Senior Custodian of Genocide Museum and historian Nenad Antonijević asserted that he supported identification and punishment of the persons who were responsible for abductions in KiM.

"The courts and prosecutors need to do their job. The facts in connection with the allegation of the former Prosecutor Carla Del Ponte and Dick Marty's report on human organs trafficking have to be elucidated", Antonijević pointed out.





Simultaneously with the anniversary of the Kosovo Pogrom, the Association of Kidnapped and Missing Persons in Kosovo and Metohija marked 15 years of its work by publishing a luxury hard cover monograph "Abducted Truth".

Photo-monograph published by the Association of Kidnapped and Missing Persons in Kosovo and Metohija represents a historical source, a monument in the form of a book and a lasting reminder and warning that all cases of abductions in Kosovo and Metohija committed by the KLA and other Albanian armed formations have to be solved.

It is also important to underline that this book is not intended to create hatred among the nations; it was created to tell the truth about a tragic event in our near past. Only by telling the truth about all crimes which happened on the territory of former Yugoslavia in the last decade of the 20th century, but also in the 21st century (the March Pogrom 2004) the reconciliation among the nations in this region can be achieved on healthy foundations.

It is my honor and professional duty as the custodian of the Museum of Genocide Victims, an institution which has been intensively cooperating with the Association of Kidnapped and Missing Persons in Kosovo and Metohija for almost a decade, to recommend for publishing this valuable photo-monograph.

From the review, Nenad Antonijević – historian, senior custodian, Museum of Genocide Victims

## Round Table

### *Responsibility of the United Nations (UNMIK) and other stakeholders for forcible disappearances and murders of the Serbs in Kosovo and Metohija*

The round table launched the forgotten issue of forcible disappearances and perishment of the Serbs in Kosovo and Metohija due to failure of the UN Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo and Metohija (UNMIK) to

fulfill its mandate prescribed by the UN Security Council Resolution 1244, as well as public presentation of the decision of the UNMIK Human Rights Advisory Panel which explicitly confirmed the UNMIK responsibility.



By laying a wreath on the "Monument of the Truth" in North Kosovska Mitrovica, the Association of Families of Kidnapped and Missing Persons in Kosovo and Metohija marked 17 years since the first mass abduction of the Serbs in KiM, when miners of the surface mine Belačevac had been abducted, and paid their respect to the victims and missing persons before, during and after the conflict in Kosovo and Metohija.

Organizers of the round table especially reviewed the following themes: termination of NATO aggression of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Military Technical "Kumanovo Agreement" and the OUN Security Council Resolution 1244; establishment of the UN Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo and Metohija (UNMIK); systematic physical violence, ethnic cleansing, forcible disappearances and perishment of the Serbs in Kosovo and Metohija during the UNMIK's mandate; responsibility of UNMIK as the public authority holder in Kosovo and Metohija due to absence of preventive protection and failure to launch investigations relative to forcible disappearances and killings of the Serbs in Kosovo and Metohija; decisions of the Human Rights Advisory Panel relative to forcible disappearances and killings of the Serbs in Kosovo and Metohija; disregard of work and failure of



Coordination of Serbian Associations of Families of Missing, Killed and Fallen Persons from the territory of former SFRY demanded more active participation of the government at solving the cases of missing Serbs from Kosovo and indicated to the responsibility of international missions EULEX and UNMIK which, as it was estimated, did not carry out their duty and protect the lives and property of the Serbs.

UNMIK, EULEX and local authorities to act in accordance with the decision of the Human Rights Advisory Panel; future steps of the Association of Families of the Victims – what to do next and how?

The speakers were: Veljko Odalović, President of the Committee on Missing Persons of the Government of the Republic of Serbia; Marko Đurić, Director of Office for Kosovo and Metohija of the Government of the Republic of Serbia; Andrey Antonov, Executive Officer of UNMIK Human Rights Advisory Panel; dr Dejan Mirović, Associate Professor at the Faculty of Law of the University in Priština with temporary seat at Kosovska Mitrovica; Savo Štrbac, Director of Documentary-Informative Center Veritas; Dragan Pjevač, President of the Coordination of Serbian Associations of Families of Missing, Killed and Fallen Persons from the territory of former SFRY.



The book “Johann’s Serbian Heart” by Veselin Dželetović was written according to an authentic event. This is a story about a Serbian family, the only one remaining in an almost exterminated village; a story about a German Johann who is carrying the heart of a Serb, kidnapped in Kosovo and Metohija in 1999. The author of the book met Johann in 2004 on the ruins of a Serbian cemetery in a Kosovo village and found out an incredible story.



## What Does Johann’s Heart Remember

Does heart remember? Does it recognize the scenery and people it used to love even after it has ended one life and started another, quite a new life in the chest of another man? For a long time Johann Wagner, a German of noble origin, a landowner in whose chest the heart of a Serb from Kosovo and Metohija beat, was asking himself these or similar questions.

After successful transplantation, Wagner began to dream unfamiliar scenery, an Orthodox church, a country house and a blue-eyed boy in front of it. In time, the dreams turned into nightmares of war scenes and Johann, tracing them, came to Kosmet, resolute to find out the identity of the donor.

“He thought that a man had sold his heart. He did not know that the man had been kidnapped, he did not know the details, but still he came to help the family financially, because he was rich. Meeting the boy was crucial in the whole thing and that’s how the truth was revealed. He had never seen the child before, Were it not for the heart which wanted to jump out of his chest, he would never tell the story”, says Dželetović.

Something happened when they first met, the hearts recognized each other, or whatever... Soon after that, the boy’s mother unfortunately died. The German Johann Wagner took Orthodoxy and adopted the boy. The author of this true testimony about suffering of the Serbs in Kosovo and Metohija, Veselin Dželetović, first described this thrilling story in a poem and then in a novel whose 12th edition was published and translated into Russian.

“We gave the novel to Nikita Mihalkov when he was at the premier of “Sunčanica” (Sunstroke). We were told that he had read the book in a night, that he had liked the novel very much and that he would deal with the theme or perhaps make a movie after he had finished the shooting of a film in Turkey... It means a lot to me that he read it in one night and understood the point”, Dželetović said.

With this novel, Dželetović scratched the painful theme of human organs trafficking, the notorious “yellow house” and general perishment of the Serbs, which is still going on.



Office for Kosovo and Metohija, on the occasion of the International Day of Missing Persons, concludes with regrets that for 16 years no progress has been made in regard of solving the fates of 1,711 missing persons in Kosovo and Metohija, elucidation of these crimes and punishment of responsible persons. The Office made an appeal to international institutions for assistance.

“Since the Provisional Institutions of Self-Government in Priština obviously do not want or do not have the capacities to solve this problem, Office for Kosovo and Metohija once more makes an appeal to the competent international institutions in the Province to invest their authority in solving the problem of missing persons, because it is out debt to the victims and their families and the basis for construction of true normalization of relations in Kosmet”. Office for Kosovo and Metohija also concludes that, on the other hand, the Government of the Republic of Serbia regards the issue of missing persons responsibly. As stated in the announcement, there are no unchecked locations on the territory of Central Serbia, which is proved by recent checkup of the location near Novi Pazar conducted at the request of Priština.

On the photo: Association of Families of Kidnapped and Missing Persons walk in protest in Belgrade on the occasion of marking the International Day of the Disappeared.

## Association of Families of Abducted Persons Reminds of 15 Long Years

Uncertain is the fate of 525 Serbs and other non-Albanians, while 361 persons were buried up to date and nobody has been punished for that - this was said at the conference of the Association. On the territory under the international protection all conventions on human rights were violated, culminating in the unprecedented crime – human organs trafficking.

“Someone had a project in his head and carried it out; that person elaborated it down to the slightest detail and implemented it. Adding the fact that those who represent all power in the world today are responsible for what happened, they will certainly not allow us to prove that the crimes were committed on the territory under their responsibility”, says Miodjub Vitorović, Deputy of the War Crimes Prosecutor.

The UN Human Rights Advisory Panel detected disastrous oversights of KFOR, police and the courts of the UN Mission during investigation procedures of 172 cases of missing Serbs in Kosovo and Metohija.

“Our task and role of the Association are to shed a little light so that

such decisions are not made in the media and institutional blackout, but to appear in the first next report of the UN General Assembly. Formally they are not binding to UNMIK, but they have an immense moral strength, because they are primarily founded on facts and law”, says Dušan Čelić, Deputy of the President of the Coordination of Serbian Associations of Families of Missing, Killed and Fallen Persons from the territory of former SFRY.

All countries founded after breakup of the SFRY passed their laws on missing persons and regulated the rights of their families, except Serbia. The Association plans to prepare independently a Model Law and to that effect expects support of the competent Ministry of Labor and Social Policy and Office for Kosovo and Metohija.



## Annual Assembly, Work Report

Inadequate attitude to the victims and still a great number of those for whom we have been searching for over 15 years – these are predominant conclusions of the Work Report for the previous election period. Unfortunately, it was also predominant in all previous reports and an indisputable indicator of the fact that we are still searching for 530 persons. In addition, the greatest number of the families of victims is still uncared-for, living under difficult circumstances, on the edge of existence and with unsolved legal status.

Altogether, these are serious reasons why we are all dissatisfied with the achieved. Review of the activities in the previous period will show our maximum engagement, which makes us even more anxious and restless because there are no results.

In cooperation with the Office for Kosovo and Metohija, a partner project was made: Organization of Legal Assistance for the Crimes in KiM. Workshops were held in Belgrade, Niš, Kraljevo, Kosovska Mitrovica and Gračanica, attended by a great number of families and students of the Faculty of Law.

Our routine annual activities can be better analyzed when categorized in groups:

1. Organization of meetings of the representatives of the Association with the representatives of governmental institutions and international organizations: Committee on Missing Persons of the Government of the Republic of Serbia; Commissariat for Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons; Red Cross Tracing Service of the Republic of Serbia; Ministry of Interior Affairs of Serbia, War Crimes Service, Office of War Crimes Prosecutor of the Republic of Serbia, International Red Cross, International Committee on Missing Persons; EULEX Prosecutor's Office in Kosovo and Metohija.
2. Organization or participation in informative activities: press conferences, round tables, printing and distribution of Photo monograph "Abducted Truth", maintenance and updating of the web site of the Association [www.udruzenjeporodica.org.rs](http://www.udruzenjeporodica.org.rs).

3. Organization or participation in the activities on marking the anniversaries: the 15th anniversary of the foundation of the Association (14 March); the 17th anniversary of kidnapping of the miners of Mine Belačevac Mine (22 June); memorial services to the victims in KiM, Vidovdan (28 June); marking of the anniversary of kidnapped, missing and killed citizens in the area of Orahovac - Velika Hoča and the Cemetery Orlovača (18 July); marking the International Day of Missing Persons on 30 August (Belgrade and Gračanica); meeting of the Working Group for Missing Persons of Belgrade and Priština on 9 December 2015; International Human Rights Day at Media Center on 10 December 2015.

4. Organization or participation of help to the families: collection of documentation for assignment of pupils' scholarships and loans; organization of excursions for psycho-social support to family members; distribution of gifts to children of the families of the Association in Kraljevo; distribution of humanitarian aid received from donors. Special activities of the Association include participation in all conferences and meetings in the region of former Yugoslavia dedicated to kidnapped, missing and killed persons.

The presented activities are accompanied by the documentation of proposals and petitions for acceleration of solving the cases of kidnapped and missing persons.

Unfortunately, we have to establish lack of results or, what is even more discouraging, decrease of the rate of finding and identification of missing persons.

The decrease has become constant, which is the most drastic this year.

# 2016.

Refusal to establish the court for the crimes committed by the KLA purports the fact that no party in the conflict, including the Serbian side, wants to present the truth to the public. The very idea for establishment of the court comes after 17 years from the most monstrous crimes committed by the Shqiptars' terrorists. The evidence is hardly available; the archives are not opened, which means they are also unavailable. The witnesses died or find it absurd to testify, while many of them are afraid, even though some of them are in the witness protection program on the territory of some of the European countries.

## Why Haven't the KLA Crimes Committed against the Serbs Been Tried Before? *Milorad Trifunović, one of the representatives of the families of kidnapped and killed Serbs*

Milorad Trifunović, Coordinator of Families of Kidnapped and Missing Serbs in Kosovo and Metohija, thinks that the countries which are the most influential factors hide the truth about the crimes against the Serbs, and they do it systematically. After announcement that the court which will process the crimes of Shqiptars' terrorists against the Serbian civilians and members of the national security forces will be finally established, positive expectations appear simultaneously with the conclusions based on past experiences that nothing good will come out of it.

"Families of kidnapped and missing persons expect that the court will finally start work in order to shed the light on the crimes. As you remember, Mr. Gebaugar said that this court would be functional until the end of January this year," says Trifunović for KiM Papers. But it does not seem sufficient for the families of victims and all concerned parties to be sincerely persuaded.

"However, as I read the Shqiptars' papers, they seem to be lingering again. The building in The Hague where the court will be situated is not

ready either. I have begun to doubt if this court will start to work at all while this political structure is in power in Priština. They will try to obstruct and prevent it, because the people who are presently in power in Priština are the most responsible ones for the crimes committed over the Serbs. In addition, their allies are five most powerful countries in the world, members of NATO Alliance who divided Kosovo and Metohija in five zones of responsibility and, you know, they are America, England, Germany, France and Italy. God knows what will happen; all we can do is to believe that the truth will eventually come to light in hope that the remaining witnesses will not die", Trifunović says.

"Sincerity of this decision is discredited by the announcement that this court will process only the KLA crimes committed in 1999, despite the fact that many of the crimes had been committed in the previous year 1998 and earlier, as well as in the years after the occupation of Kosovo and Metohija", says Trifunović. He is one of those people who suspects that the trial, if it occurs at all, for the crimes committed only after the occu-



**At the meeting with the Adviser on Missing Persons of ICRC in Geneva, Mrs. Federica Ricardi. Talks were held about future cooperation, continuation of work of the Working Groups of Priština and Belgrade, support to unification of database of every missing person and other issues. The International Red Cross will continue cooperation with the associations whose purpose is finding of missing persons.**



pation of Kosovo and Metohija will actually be a performance. None of the officials has ever mentioned the responsibility of the members of peacekeeping missions who are accountable because they were obliged to protect the citizens of Kosovo and Metohija after retreat of the Serbian security forces.

“They silently watched the exile of 250,000 Serbs, they silently watched how the Shqiptars threw us out of our own houses and put them on fire, how they killed and kidnapped. Along with the gun on his shoulder, every foreign soldier was carrying a video recorder or a camera. If they did not want to prevent the crimes, they could have recorded them. Will anyone ever raise the question of their command responsibility?”

You know that Serbian soldiers, police commanders and political leaders were convicted to a total of 1,570 years of imprisonment for their command responsibility. What about command responsibility of those who were obliged to protect us? They are accomplices in the crimes against the Serbs in Kosovo and Metohija. I don't say they were direct perpetrators or that they could have prevented them, even if they wanted to. They had 50,000 soldiers in the area of Kosovo and Metohija. And what did they do, who did they protect? Do you happen to know anyone who they have ever protected? I don't, though I live in Kosovo and Metohija nowadays, and I declare under full material and criminal responsibility that I have never heard or seen that they protected anyone”, he insists.

This attitude, which is not just his, is additionally confirmed by the mechanisms of the international right sabotaged by the member coun-

tries. “Why don't the denominated five NATO countries open their archives? Why don't they force the KLA to open their archives? My most recent knowledge is that the Spanish contingent which was located in the east found some KLA files and delivered them to the international Red Cross. Why do they obstruct publishing of these files?” asked Trifunović obviously agitated by apparent Western obstruction of justice. “It hurts even more when you are aware that it's all done in order to make the goals of terrorists and their mentors finally accomplished.”

Instead of enforcement of justice we have enforcement of the will and accomplishment of the goals of cruel criminals and terrorists.

The experience that in the previous decade and a half was acquired by the families of Serbian victims from their meetings with the so-called international committees is, mildly put, devastating. So, the conclusion which could be made about future development of events is not encouraging at all. Trifunović, as one of the actors in the efforts made in order to find the truth about the kidnapped and killed Serbs, is extremely suspicious. In his opinion, the adjournment of the trial to the Shqiptar criminals indicates to the not-so-much hidden intentions and protection by the world “advocates of justice”.

“Why hasn't that court worked since the establishment of The Hague Tribunal? Why weren't the criminals trialed although a lot of new crimes committed against the Serbs had been elucidated? What was the reason for waiting? Why were the criminals who admitted their crimes against the Serbs like, for example, brothers Mazreku at Klečka, let out of the



**Olgica Božanić visited RTS. Conversation with the journalist Veljko Medić on the occasion of arrest of two Kosovo Albanians, who are charged to have committed the crimes over the Serbian civilians as the members of the KLA.**

prison? Why wasn't Haradinaj trialed, who is known to have been involved? He may have not participated but he ordered the killings at the Radonjičko Lake where remains of 29 bodies were found? Who is guilty for Volujak, who is guilty for Klečka, who is guilty for all that? Furthermore, Dick Marty proved that human organs trafficking of kidnapped Serbs took place. Carla Del Ponte confirmed it adding that a lot of evidence had been destroyed at The Hague. Who destroyed such evidence and why? The investigation was conducted by the American investigator Williamson who also established that human organs trafficking existed; and what with it? We have no feedback on how much was done and why was it stopped”, Trifunović wonders resigned and although he wishes to believe that someone will eventually be sentenced for the crimes, he still cannot do it.

“I simply don't trust them, because whatever committee is formed its chief has to be an American, Canadian or British? Based on my personal experience in these 17 long years as long as I am in this story, I have not seen a single American, Canadian or British to say anything positive about

the Serbs. They would always say complete fictions and lies. When they used to come to my office, to the Association of Families of Kidnapped and Missing Persons, they were always interested in everything else but in the fate of kidnapped and missing persons and elucidation of the crimes”, he concludes.

His allegations are impossible to challenge. It is more than obvious, and quite open, that the Shqiptar criminals are not just freed, they are also appointed to high positions within the Shqiptars community.

Moreover, probably in an attempt to talk affirmatively about that future court or merely out of huge desire to believe in the victory of good, truth and justice, nobody mentions the promise made by the former Chief of the US Consulate in Priština, Tracy Jacobson, that this court will process nothing more than ten cases, that it will eventually “remove the black stain from the KLA” and that it will not engage in a glorious fight.

## 17 Years since Disappearance of Politika's Journalist Ljubomir Knežević in Kosovo and Metohija

*No responsible persons for oversights in the investigation of the abduction of a journalist*

The fate of Ljubomir Knežević, a journalist of the Priština paper “Jedinstvo” and an associate of “Politika”, who went missing on this day 1999 in

Kosovo and Metohija, has not be discovered after full 17 years.

“On 6 May 1999, Ljubomir Knežević was forcibly taken away in an un-



**We are still searching for our loved ones. In the office of the Association of Families of Kidnapped and Missing Persons, from left to right: Vinka Jovanović, Verica Tomanović, Milica Radunović, Dragana Majstorović and Dostana Petrović**



*Without answers about the cases of 39 media workers*

In the announcement on the occasion of 3 May, the World Press Freedom Day, the Journalists' Association of Serbia demanded from the Special Office of War Crimes Prosecutor to finally start doing their job in connection with 39 journalists and media workers of the Serbian newspapers killed in the civil war in the former Yugoslavia, in Kosovo and Metohija and during the NATO aggression, instead of, as NUNS reports, fruitless investigation of the journalists' responsibility suspected of war crimes and genocide preparation and organization.

She added that their Association has been searching for 572 persons who were reported missing, of whom nothing has been known, whether any inquiry was conducted or not, emphasizing that it has been a taboo for 17 years.

As she says, they insisted on systematic solution of the rights of families of missing persons in Kosmet, because this issue has not been settled to date although they wrote letters about solution of this existential issue to all past governments.

"We think of the rights which will protect the families, which is the right to monthly income, social insurance and scholarships for children of kidnapped persons", said Tomanović.

known direction from the railway station in Vučitrn by the KLA members. The Office of War Crimes Prosecutor is conducting a pre-trial procedure on the grounds of criminal charges of the Secretariat of the Ministry of Interior from Kosovska Mitrovica in cooperation with the War Crimes Service of the Ministry of Interior, Special Investigation Unit of the EU and EULEX Prosecutor's Office in Priština", says a brief answer of Miroljub Vitorović, Deputy of the War Crimes Prosecutor, in answer to the question of the Politika journalists about the outcome of the investigation of Knežević's disappearance for over a decade and a half. Practically, it means there are no suspects in this case.

## Round Table

### *Exhumations and identifications of missing persons in KiM and the rights of their families*

Families of kidnapped and missing persons in KiM asked once more for acceleration of the exhumation and identification process of killed Serbs and systematic solving of the existential problems of their families.

President of the Association of Families of Kidnapped and Missing Persons in KiM Verica Tomanović said that, as regards Serbian victims, exhumations and identifications in KiM had been forgotten for years.

"We think it's high time people's conscience awakes once more, it's high time the media get involved in finding the ways to accelerate the exhumation and identification process", said Tomanović to Tanjug before the beginning of the round table on that topic.

She added that the Association was looking for answers to the questions of processing the crimes committed against civil victims before the war and after signature of the UN Resolution 1244, when the greatest number of Serbs went missing during peace, without the war.

The State Secretary of the Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Security Aleksandar Jablanović agreed that problems which the families of missing persons had been facing for years were numerous and said that the government intended to help them as much as possible.

"The problems are big, starting from the fact that the exhumation

and identification process and finding of missing persons are very slow", says Jablanović to Tanjug.

He thinks that the problem is even greater because a lot of participants of the 1998 and 1999 wars on the Albanian side occupy outstanding positions now, which, as he notices, greatly hinder finding of all criminals, finding of the bodies of victims and punishment of the perpetrators.

## Families of Missing Persons Ask for the Map of Execution Sites of Serbian Victims

Representatives of the Coordination of Serbian Associations of Missing, Killed and Fallen Persons from the territory of former Yugoslavia requested creation of unique records and drawing of a map of execution sites of the Serbian victims.

President of the Association Dragan Pjevač said at the conference under the title "Human Rights of Families of Missing and Killed Persons", that such records are necessary because the international community does not have equal treatment of Serbian victims and their families to other victims.

"In the perception of the international community, the victims are Croats and Bosniaks, but not the Serbs. We can freely say that the collective guilt for such victims is imposed on the Serbian nation. Creating unique records and the map of execution sites of the Serbian victims, we will document it and confirm that we are all the victims of the wars", President of the Association pointed out.

Pjevač said that in Serbia the issue and status of missing persons was not regulated by law; in addition, the question of protection of the families of victims from Croatia was not solved, underlining that he was under the impression that this issue was purposefully ignored.

President of the Coordination said that the families of missing per-

sons were aware they could not expect bringing the criminals to justice, but that the consequences can be solved by passing a systematic law which would regulate the rights of the families of missing persons.

President of the Republic Organization of the Families of Imprisoned and Killed Fighters and Missing Civilians of the Republic of Srpska Nedeljko Mitrović said that 1,655 Serbs are maintained as missing in the war in BiH, indicating that the Serbs were exposed to discrimination in BiH when the issues of war crimes processing and search for missing persons are concerned.

According to him, out of the total number of 100,000 killed or missing persons in BiH, one third are the Serbs. For true or alleged war crimes, the Serbs were convicted to over 1,600 years of imprisonment, while the Bosniaks and Croats were punished with about 10 times less years. Today, the gathering underlined that some families had been looking for their loved ones for over 25 years and that the status of all victims should be the same.

The need for passing a systematic legislative solution was highlighted as well as greater cooperation with the authorities in order to get the justice for the victims and families of the persons who disappeared in the 1990's conflicts.



# 2017.

The greatest number of abductions took place after 10 June 1999, in the presence of KFOR. The civilians were not protected against the assaults of the KLA members, whereas EULEX did not justify their mission because nobody was convicted for the crimes committed against the Serbs in Kosovo and Metohija.

## No Answers About 540 Missing Serbs

The fate of 572 abducted persons in Kosovo and Metohija is still unknown, and no answers are provided by UNMIK, KFOR, OSCE, Red Cross, Doctors without Borders, and the others. President of the Association of Families of Kidnapped and Missing Persons in Kosovo and Metohija Verica Tomanović said today that mortal remains of 367 persons had been buried up to date, whereas deep reverence to the victims was paid through daily work of the Association and eagerness to find the missing persons.

“The greatest number of abductions took place after 10 June 1999, in the presence of KFOR. The civilians were not protected against the attacks of the KLA members, whereas EULEX did not justify their mission because nobody was convicted for the crimes against the Serbs in Kosovo and Metohija”, said Tomanović at the press conference in the Belgrade Media Centre on the occasion of the 17th anniversary of the foundation of the Association.

According to her, representatives of the international community in Kosovo and Metohija had a selective approach to the cases of Serbian victims.

“We addressed the missions of UNMIK, KFOR, OSCE, the International Committee of Red Cross, Doctors without Borders, to all those who had the mandate to protect the civilians in Kosovo and Metohija, but there was no response”, said Tomanović.

On behalf of the Association, she expressed her dissatisfaction with the work of Serbian judicial authorities in processing of the crimes against the Serbs in Kosovo and Metohija and asked for acceleration of work dynamics of the teams for exhumation and identification of mortal remains of missing persons.

The member of the Executive Board of the Association Dušan Čelić estimated that there was “no justice and truth” for Serbian victims and asked why Serbian judicial authorities had not delivered judgments in absentia “obvious criminals” among the Albanians.

“Serbian Associations from Kosovo and Metohija raised 724 indictments to the judicial authorities of Serbia, based on which the Albanian criminals were sentenced to 15 years in prison, while only one of them was sentenced to 13 years. Does it mean that justice and truth can be achieved only out of the institutional system?” asked Čelić.

He added that it was necessary to preserve “the culture of remembrance” of the missing persons from Kosovo and Metohija mentioning that the families of kidnapped persons themselves would feel “a kind of satisfaction” if the majority of the Serbian society realized these were not individual victims but the victims of the whole Serbian society.



Mrs. Verica Tomanović was a guest in the morning television of Happy TV on the occasion of marking the anniversary of the first abduction in Kosovo and Metohija

## After 17 Years, the Serbs Ask for Justice for Committed Crimes

In Kosovo, the majority Albanian community and representatives of central institutions mark the 9th anniversary of the unilaterally declared independence. On the other side, the Serbs are looking for the solution of their basic existential issues. They ask for justice for committed crimes. More than 200,000 Serbs had to leave Kosovo. Few have returned. One of the most painful questions for the Serbian nation in Kosovo is the search for missing persons. Several hundred of Serbs are still maintained on the lists of missing persons. 17 years have passed since war conflicts were over and the issue of missing persons is still open. As if there is no will for its solving.

The Coordinator of the Association of Families of Missing Persons of the Serbs and other non-Albanians Milorad Trifunović says that 1,600 persons are maintained as missing, of which 547 Serbs and other non-Albanians. In the last five years none of the graves has been excavated.

“We expect that the international community, Belgrade and Priština put the question on the agenda in Brussels, tell us what the problem is, why the cases of missing persons have not been elucidated. Past governments in Belgrade and Priština, the international community and Embassies promised that the first point of the dialogue agenda would be the case of missing persons”, Trifunović said.

The last one who gave such a promise was Hashim Thaçi, says Trifunović. “Thaçi was the last one who promised to put that issue on the agenda in Brussels. There were talks about the bridge, the wall, the train and who knows what else, but never about the missing persons. Thaçi said that he had talked with Vučić about it and that he had accepted it as a topic, but it has never happened up to now. I had a meeting with Thaçi later and asked him why he had not put the issue on the agenda; he repeated “what Thaçi promises, Thaçi does”. He said we would go to Brussels and put the question to Mogerini”, Trifunović said.

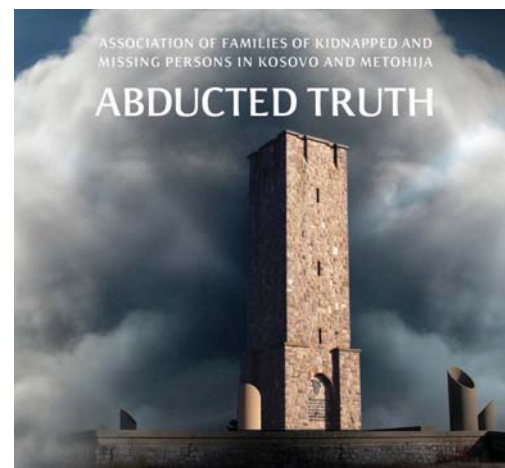
The investigation proved that there was no mass grave in Kosovska Mitrovica. “For seventeen years we have lived with the Albanians’ conviction that the grave existed, although all Serbs were telling nothing was there. The rumor was disproved, the dilemma was solved”, said Trifunović

One of the most painful issues is why the perpetrators of the killings have not been found. “That is the greatest problem. We handed over 367 bodies of missing persons, but nobody was punished or even processed for their perishment”, Trifunović emphasized.





Concurrently with marking of the 17th anniversary, the Association of Families of Kidnapped and Missing Persons in Kosovo and Metohija published the Photo-monograph *Oteta istina*, in English language *Abducted Truth*



In agreement with Zoran Matičević, Professor of sociology of the Third Belgrade Gymnasium and Gymnasium "Patriarch Pavle", on 19 April 2017, two history classes were held about perishment of the Serbian nation in Kosovo and Metohija in the period from January 1998 up to date. The truth about forcible abductions, kidnappings and killing of our loved ones was presented to the gymnasium graduates. The authenticity of the data was presented by the nearest relatives of abducted and killed persons in a moving and effective manner which aroused strong emotions of the pupils. President of the Association Verica Tomanović, in her introductory note, informed the attendants about the genesis of events development which preceded the tragic perishment of the Serbs and other ethnicities by the KLA in Kosovo and Metohija. The witnesses of personal tragedies said they were glad because for the first time young people showed their interest in the tragedy.

## Disappointment in the Judicial System

### *Reaction of the Association of Families of Kidnapped and Missing Persons in Kosovo and Metohija*

Разочарање у правосудни систем код чланова породица киднапованих, несталих и убијених Срба и осталих је и данас изазвало емоције које додатно наносе бол и патњу за својим сродницима. По ко зна који пут суочени смо са неправдом и неједнаким приступом према кривичном гоњењу починиоца и налогодаваоца злочина када су у питању српске жртве. Још једна у низу донесених непристрасних и исполитиваних одлука суда о злочинима ОБК на Косову и Метохији.

Данашња поражавајућа одлука суда у Колмару охрабрила је злочинце за етничко чишћење Срба на Косову и Метохији, јер су уместо кажњавања, награђени за злочине у руководећим структурама власти у Приштини. Због некажњавања и непривођења пред лице правде киднапера, убица и њихових налогодаваца, повратак није безбедан у своја родна места на Косову и Метохији више од двеста хиљада Срба и других етничких заједница скоро две деценије.

Немоћни смо да променимо одлуке суда, али никада нећемо престати да тражимо истину о страдању и правду за наше жртве.

Залагаћемо се као и свих година да се настави истрага локација о потенцијалним масовним и појединачним гробницама на Косову и Метохији и Албанији где су скривани и уништавани докази злочина припадника ОБК.

Ниједан суд неће моћи да промени истину о злочинима ОБК која је доказана откривањем масовних и појединачних гробница са посмртним остацима српских жртава: Радоњичко језеро, Глођане, Крематоријум Клечка, Волујак, Малишево, Драгодан 1 и 2, Тусус, Дуље...

Наставићемо да сарађујемо са свим домаћим и међународним институцијама и организацијама и настојаћемо да само истином истрајемо да сачувамо жртве од дискриминације и заборавља.

Охрабриваћемо преживеле сведоке ужасног насиља да истрају и да не посустају у борби за истином и правдом за својим најмилијима који су невино страдали на Косову и Метохији.

## We Will Look for Justice As Long As We Live

### *Families of Killed Serbs*

Members of families of killed Serbs are indignant by absence of justice when the crimes of the leaders and members of the notorious KLA are concerned. They announce an appeal to the court in Strasbourg.

"I am completely sure that all those who committed crimes in Kosovo and Metohija will be punished by God; we only hope that we, the families of victims, will see the justice is fulfilled."

This is what Olgica Kostić Božanić said for daily papers "Novosti". From her family in the villages of Retimlje and Opteruša in the municipality of Orahovac 15 persons were abducted and 3 persons are still maintained as missing. She is disappointed and disturbed by the decision of the French court to award the criminal with freedom.

- All 27 Serbian victims from this area were found in the mass grave Volujak which was excavated in 2005, while identification of mortal remains by DNA analysis confirmed that they were the residents of the villages in the municipality of Orahovac. The group of Ramush Haradinaj was responsible for that crime", Olgica underlined speaking on behalf of the Association of Killed and Missing Serbs.

The families whose loved ones were monstrously killed have tried everything in the past 19 years in order to get justice and have the criminals punished. This Association delivered additional evidence to the court in France of the crimes committed under direct command of Haradinaj. That, apparently, was not given a glance by anyone.

Milorad Trifunović, Coordinator of the Association of Missing and Kidnapped Serbs in Kosovo and Metohija, says he is shocked.

- I feared such decision.

"Serbian victims from Kosmet and their families have experienced disrespect and discrimination", thinks Nataša Šćepanović from the Association of Families of Kosmet's Sufferers:

- Again and again it is proved that there is no justice for Serbian victims. They are the civilians whose lives were taken in the most monstrous manner. Moreover, Haradinaj in his autobiographic book wrote about the crimes he had ordered, while he himself had executed quite a number of victims. We are cheated with this unrightful judicial decision, but we will not give up. We will fight to the last atom of our strength.





The search is still on for 540 persons of Serbian and non-Albanian nationality who went missing in Kosovo and Metohija, while during the last 18 years mortal remains of 369 persons were found.

## Tribune in Niš: “We Have the Right to Truth and Justice”

The search is still on for 572 persons of Serbian and non-Albanian nationality who went missing in Kosovo and Metohija, while during the last 18 years mortal remains of 369 persons were found. On the occasion, the Association of Families of Kidnapped and Missing Persons and the Association of Kosmet’s Sufferers organized the tribunal in Niš under the title “We have the right to truth and justice”.

With the view to inform the public about the tragedy of the families who have searched for almost two decades for the truth and fates of kidnapped and forcibly abducted persons, members of the families of kidnapped and missing persons in Kosovo and Metohija gathered in Niš together with the representatives of competent institutions who deal with this issue.

“My 28 years old son, Davor Ristić, disappeared and up to date we haven’t found anything or got any trace as to where he is, what has happened... So, we are almost unnerved, we have an impression that every-

body forgot about us, that the government is not engaged enough, and that we still have no details about mortal remains of our kidnapped son”, said mother Gordana Ristić, Coordinator of the Office in Niš.

During almost 2 decades, members of the families have complained about very small number of exhumations and, accordingly, the identifications of their sons, fathers, brothers and husbands. This process is complicated because the data about missing persons are scarce.

“The greatest obstacle is the lack of data about the place of crime and burial of mortal remains. The search is still on when mass or individual graves are concerned”, explains Ljiljana Krstić, Head of the Division of the Committee on Missing Persons of the Government of the Republic of Serbia. “Out of 1664 persons maintained as missing in the area of Kosovo, 540 persons are of Serbian or non-Albanian nationality, and 30 are under the verification procedure”, the representative of the Committee on Missing Persons of the Government of the Republic of Serbia added.



The officials of the Government of Serbia laid a wreath on the “Monument of the Truth” in North Kosovska Mitrovica and paid respect to the victims and missing persons before, during and after the conflict in Kosovo.

“For more than 18 years we have waited for the news about our missing sons, fathers, mothers, brothers and sisters. We provided information to who knows how many different international organizations. Some of us gave over 30 statements from September 1999 until 2016 about their disappearances and every time we were told that we would be notified about any progress; but those were empty words”, it is said in the appeal read by Bajram Ćerkini.

“We appeal Belgrade and Priština as well as the international community to appoint a high representative with sufficiently strong mandate and authority in order to end up our suffering, to find the remains of our loved ones so that we can mourn them as appropriate”, said the Coordination of the Association of Families of Kidnapped and Missing Persons in Kosmet Milorad Trifunović.

## Priština: Special Court Expects Indictments

Priština, Belgrade – The Special Court for war crimes of the so-called Liberation Army of Kosovo started work in July and is ready to raise the first indictments. President of the Parliamentary Committee for Kosovo and Metohija Milovan Drecun expects the top KLA commanders to be charged. Representatives of the Fund for Humanitarian Right in Priština say that the first indictments will wait until September. RTK says that passing of the regulation was the last legal step for the court to start work and reminds that it will process only the crimes committed by the members of the Liberation Army of Kosovo.

The Special Court for war crimes committed in Kosovo is the last chance for the international community to process the KLA members for committed crimes, which also includes their commanders, says the President of the Committee for Kosovo and Metohija Milovan Drecun. Having in mind that the Court will operate on the basis of Dick Marty’s report, whose skeleton is the organized crime group Drvenik whose

members are Hashim Thaçi, Kadri Veselji, Džavit Haljiti, Sulejam Salimi, Čeku and the others, it should be expected that first indictments will be raised against these persons, says Drecun adding that he expects a big charge at the beginning which will also include other KLA commanders such as the Haradinaj clan.

As they are presently the top political leaders in Kosovo, the local public disapproves of the Court work and thinks it will be biased.

But, the victims seem to be forgotten, warns Director of the Fund for Humanitarian Right in Priština Bekim Blakaj.

At the moment, nobody knows which crimes will be processed, which may be good, or which persons will be processed and, particularly, who the witnesses are.





Documentary film "The Universe of Pain" about the perishment of the Serbs in KiM from 1998 until today was presented in Belgrade. The families of kidnapped and missing persons in KiM say that they will not give up the "horny road" of fight and search for the truth about the missing persons.

## Documentary "The Universe of Pain" in Search for the Missing Persons in KiM

The film is a chronological presentation of tragic events in KiM and perishment of the Serbs and, according to the author Ranko Đinović, it is dedicated to the international community and those who will recognize themselves in the crimes committed against the Serbs.

Ranko Đinović says that the film should be presented to those who support admission of Kosovo to UNESCO so that they can see the Albanians' attitude toward Serbian sanctuaries.

After presentation of the film, the President of the Association of Families of Kidnapped and Missing Persons in KiM Verica Tomanović said that perpetrators of the crimes against the Serbs were known, but there was no punishment.

She suggested that the families who had searched for almost two decades for their loved ones were experiencing the crime against the

truth and were exposed to pressures and manipulations, asking why 2,108 Albanians had been let out of the prisons in Serbia.

"We are convinced that this film will penetrate to those whose acts or failure to act resulted in the continuation of psychic torture over our families", said Tomanović who cited part of the report of the Special CE Reporter Dick Marty that "we owe the truth to the victims of all nationalities".

President of the Government's Committee on Missing Persons Veljko Odalović says that we have to talk persistently about the perishment of and crimes against the Serbs in KiM, that it is necessary to have as many sayings and testimonies as shown in the documentary film "The Universe of Pain" which can penetrate to the world metropolis and to those who will recognize themselves in the crimes.



## GENERAL DIRECTOR OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF RED CROSS, MR. IV DÉCOR TALKED TO THE SERBIAN FAMILIES OF MISSING AND KILLED PERSONS IN THE CONFLICTS ON THE TERRITORY OF FORMER YUGOSLAVIA

After he had listened to the shocking tales of the nearest relatives of the Serbs killed during the armed conflicts in the 1990's in the region, Mr. Iv Décor promised to make efforts and, in assistance with his associates in Belgrade, help decrease their suffering. During the visit to the region, General Director of the International Committee of Red Cross Iv Décor visited Belgrade. Mr. Décor, the first high official of this organizations to visit Serbia after almost two decades, in addition to the meeting with the representatives of Serbian authorities, talked to the families of missing and killed Serbs in Croatia, BiH and Kosovo and Metohija. Iv Décor expressed his wish to meet and talk to the representatives of all Serbian associations of families of missing persons in the region during his stay in Belgrade. The regional Delegation of ICRC in Belgrade organized and arranged the meeting where Mr. Décor talked with members of the families of missing and killed Serbs during the conflicts in the former Yugoslavia about the problems they face in the process of finding the truth about the missing persons. The aim was to find a way in which ICRC, he himself and his associates could help so that two-decade long agony of those who lost their loved ones would be finally over.



## THE KLA KILLED HER 2 BROTHERS AND 13 MEMBERS OF FAMILY: "I WONDERED WHOSE BONES TO KISS"

Olgica Božanić, born Kostić, is a member of one of the most tragic families in Kosovo. The KLA abducted or killed 15 members of Kostić family, including her brothers Lazar and Todor. The tragedy of Kostić family began by the abduction of Yugoslav Kostić from his working place on 11 July 1998. Olgica worked in a pharmacy and was at work. She asked her colleagues, the Albanian women, for a piece of information about his whereabouts because the KLA was already strong at the time and was making trenches in the villages and around Orahovac. The atmosphere was tense and every day was spent in an expectation of something horrible to happen. Her younger brother Lazar went to Orahovac to report disappearance of his cousin and then continued to Prizren to make urgencies there. On his way, we succeeded to evacuate his wife and child, the then eleven months old Anđela. He called on Olgica's apartment, and then she hugged him for the last time.

On the left photo: Olgica Božanić was a guest in TV show: Life Tells a Story – a Unilaterally Declared Pain, TV Prva



# 2018.

On 23 April, it was full 20 years since the kidnapping of Milica Radunović from the village of Dašinovac near Dečani, the first recorded victim of abductions in Kosovo and Metohija which was reported to the Association of Families of Kidnapped and Missing Persons in Kosovo and Metohija. For 20 years we have been asking for answers to our questions from local and international institutions without success. We have faced various obstacles which slow down the whole process of competent teams in the field.

## Tribune: "20 Years Since the First Abduction in Kosovo and Metohija"

On 23 April, it was full 20 years since the kidnapping of Milica Radunović from the village of Dašinovac near Dečani, the first recorded victim of abductions in Kosovo and Metohija which was reported to our Association.

For 20 years we have been searching for our family members abducted on the territory of Kosovo and Metohija and that is the reason for our gathering and giving respect to all victims of Albanian terror by the members of the so-called KLA.

The chronology of committed crimes features the crimes against humanity and violation of the international humanitarian right against the innocent victims.

For 20 years we have been asking for answers to our questions from local and international institutions without success. We have faced various obstacles which slow down the whole process of competent teams in the field.

For years the truth about existence of private prisons and camps in Kosovo and Metohija and Albania has been hidden from us. There, the Serbs and other non-Albanians were taken and tortured. Special Court for the crimes of the so-called KLA has not started working yet. The court has to find the truth about human organs trafficking which was disclosed in the report of

the Special Reporter of the Council of Europe Mr. Dick Marty.

Full 10 years have passed from the publication of the book of the former Hague Tribunal Prosecutor Mrs. Carla Del Ponte "The Hunt: Me and War Criminals", which additionally hurt the family members, whereas in the meantime many parents died and their wish to find their children remained unfulfilled.

During 18 years since the foundation of the Association, we have established fair cooperation with the representatives of domestic and international institutions which deal with the issue of missing persons in Kosovo and Metohija. We hope to achieve better results in the coming period through additional joint activities and efforts.

The participants of the tribute were: President of the Association of Families of Kidnapped and Missing Persons in Kosovo and Metohija Mrs. Verica Tomanović; member of the family of Radunović Milica, Mrs. Lidija (Radunović) Milenković; representative of the Committee on Missing Persons Mrs. Ljiljana Krstić, Chief of Expert Service; Coordination of Serbian Associations of Families of Missing and Killed Persons on the territory of Former Yugoslavia, President of the Coordination Mr. Dušan Čelić.



### 20 YEARS OF SEARCH FOR TRUTH AND JUSTICE

It is high time our country systematically and in full scope, by a separate law and urgently, regulate the issue of the missing and killed persons and the rights of their families – this was the message from the Tribune organized by the Association of Families of Kidnapped and Missing Persons in Kosovo and Metohija with head office in Belgrade, whose leader is Verica Tomanović, which was held on 23 April, the day of the 20th anniversary since kidnapping of Milica Radunović from the village of Dašinac near Dečani, the first recorded victim of abductions in Kosovo and Metohija reported to this Association. For twenty long years the families have been searching for their loved ones who were kidnapped or killed by the members of the so-called Liberation Army of Kosovo.



### 18 YEARS SINCE THE FOUNDATION OF THE ASSOCIATION OF FAMILIES OF KIDNAPPED AND MISSING PERSONS IN KOSOVO AND METOHIJA

In March 18 years ago, with assistance of ICRC, our families, desperate and unable to solve the fate of their nearest relatives on their own, made up a decision to join the efforts in the fight to get their loved ones free. The fight is still on, although the results are devastating. We are still in search for 572 persons from our list and 370 mortal remains were handed over to the families owing to DNA analysis. At the press conference held on the occasion of the anniversary, the speakers were: President of the Association, Mrs. Verica Tomanović; President of the Coordination of Serbian Associations of Families of Missing, Killed and Fallen Persons on the Territory of Former Yugoslavia, Mr. Dušan Čelić; President of the Committee on Missing Persons of the Government of the Republic of Serbia, Mr. Veljko Odalović; Deputy of the War Crimes Prosecutor, Mr. Dušan Knežević; Chief of the Regional ICRC Delegation in Belgrade, Miss Jelena Stijačić.





Delegation of the members of the Executive Board of the Regional Coordination in London at the meeting with His Royal Highness Prince Charles at his home

**MARKING OF TWO DECADES OF PERISHMENT OF THE SERBS FROM ORAHOVAC**

Two decades of mass perishment of the Serbs in the municipality of Orahovac in Kosovo and Metohija was marked by a commemorative gathering in the village of Velika Hoča. The memorial service in front of the monument of killed Serbs was served by Hegumen of Monastery Zočište Father Stefan and about a hundred of residents attended, carrying photos of the victims. During the armed attacks of the KLA in the area of Orahovac, in the period from 17 to 22 July 1998, about 100 Serbian civilians were kidnapped. Many of them were killed and tortured in private prisons and camps, and their mortal remains were found in mass graves Mališevo and Volujak in the spring 2005.



**MARKING TWO DECADES SINCE ABDUCTION OF WORKERS OF THE "BELAČEVAC" MINE, THERMAL ELECTRIC POWER PLANT OBILIĆ**

On 2 June 1998, on the way from their workplace, nine workers of the Mine "Belačevac" of Thermal Electric Power Plant Obilić were abducted: Dušan, Pera and Zoran Ađančić, Mirko Buha, Dragan Vukmirović, Filip Gojković, Miroslav Trifunović, Srboljub Savić and Božidar Lempić. The associations dealing with the issues of missing persons emphasize that it was the first mass abduction of the Serbs in Kosovo. The investigation was conducted and interrupted, but the fate of these workers is still unknown. The day of their abduction was marked in Belgrade as well as in Kosovska Mitrovica at the tribune "Twenty years of fight and search for the truth and justice" The Tribune was organized by the Association of Families of Kidnapped and Missing Persons in Kosovo and Metohija. It was preceded by the wreath-laying ceremony at the monument "The Truth" dedicated to the victims from the Kosovo-Mitrovica district in 1998.



In the premises of the Association of Families of Kidnapped and Missing Persons in Kosovo and Metohija, from left to right: Igor Todorovski, Dušan Čelić, Nataša Šćepanović, Milosav Stojković, Slobodanka Koldžić, Dragana Đukić, Dragan Pjevač, Olgica Božanić



**O**n the occasion of 20 years since the first abductions and 18 years since the foundation and work of the Association of Families of Kidnapped and Missing Persons in Kosovo and Metohija, the Photo-Monograph with a chronology of the Association's work is in front of the readers. The issue of abducted and missing persons represents the most difficult humanitarian and legal issue on the territory of former Yugoslavia as the consequence of the wars and other armed conflicts in the period from 1991 to 2000.

Families whose members were abducted are the greatest victims of the 1990's war conflicts on the territory of former Yugoslavia. Many of them did not know about the fate of their loved ones for years, many of them still do not know what happened. According to the data of this Association, the fate of 572 persons from the area of Kosovo and Metohija is still unknown.

This photo-monograph, through articles, photographs, excerpts from newspapers and other texts, accurately and clearly shows that this Association has been trying and is still trying to discover the truth introducing numerous representatives of government institutions and international community with the cases of abductions of the members of their families.

The greatest responsibility for non-solving of a great number of abductions is on the part of the representatives of OSCE, KFOR, UNMIK, The Hague Tribunal and EULEX in Kosovo and Metohija, whose obligation was to ensure freedom of movement, peace and security of people of all nationalities.

It is necessary to find and punish the persons who are responsible for abductions of the Serbs and other non-Albanians in Kosovo and Metohija (they are mostly the members of the terrorist group of the so-called KLA of Albanian nationality). The courts and prosecutions need to do their job, regardless of whether they are ordinary or special courts, whether they are the authorities of the Republic of Serbia or bodies of Priština institutions under a form of international control.

It is necessary to elucidate the facts in connection with the allegations of Carla Del Ponte, the former Prosecutor of the International Crime Tribunal for Former Yugoslavia or the facts in connection with the documentation from the report of Dick Marty to the Council of Europe on human organs trade (which is, according to the kind of crime equal to the Nazi crimes in the form of medical experiments performed by Doctor Josef Mengele against the detainees in Auschwitz and other Nazi concentration camps in the World War II). It is the most difficult kind of crime – the crimes of genocide and Holocaust.

This manuscript is not big by its volume, but it is permeated by perceptibly enormous pain and suffering which have not decreased with the passage of time. Members of the families are resentful: not only that the persons responsible for abductions and other crimes among the members of the Albanian nation have not been punished, but they have been awarded by appointment to positions in the official establishment of the self-declared state of Kosovo (ministerial and other functions).

The purpose of this Photo-monograph is to keep reminding the public of Serbia and the international community of these tragic events, which did not get its epilogue. The justice has not attained the criminals. Innocent victims and their nearest relatives have not received moral or legal satisfaction. And all that to the shame of today's Europe and the world, especially the United Nations and the European Union.

The Association continues its fight in the mission of finding the truth through various forms and modes. One of them is this Photo-monograph which is in front of the readers. We support their fight. We congratulate them for an excellent manuscript.

*Dr Nenad Antonijević, Museum Consultant  
The Museum of Genocide Victims, Trg Nikole Pašića 11/III  
In Belgrade, 26 September 2018.*



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