

**THROUGH DIALOGUE, THE SERBIAN AND
ALBANIAN FAMILIES OF MISSING PERSONS HAVE
OVERCOME PREJUDICE AND STEREOTYPES**

WE SHARE THE SAME PAIN

Belgrade , March 2024

WHERE ARE THEY ?

According to the ICRC data, of March 2024, there are still the names of 1,618 persons on the list of Kosovo's missing persons



A LONG AND STEADY WAY FROM CONTEMPT TO MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING

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FROM LACK OF UNDERSTANDING TO SYMPATHY FOR ALL VICTIMS

WHERE THERE IS A WILL, THERE IS A WAY,
WHERE THERE ISN'T – THERE IS AN EXCUSE.
THE SERBIAN AND ALBANIAN FAMILIES OF
MISSING PERSONS HAVE FOUND A WAY.



FOREWORD

FOREWORD AFTER YEARS OF INTOLERANCE, WITH UNDERSTANDING AND COOPERATION, WE FOUND A WAY TO ACT TOGETHER

Even ten years after the first forced disappearances and abductions of civilians in Kosovo – before, during and after the armed conflicts, in the frenzy of the turn of the century, the families of innocent victims were coping with their pain and hopelessness alone, in their own ways. The family members were left to their own devices, irrespective of their nation or ethnic community of origin, captives and hostages of the prejudice and stereotypes on the collective guilt of the “others”. They had no compassion for the people of different religion or ethnicity who had been their neighbours not so long before and who were abducted or forcibly vanished into thin air, just like their loved ones, nor did they accept the fact that, actually, they were sharing the same pain.

Overwhelmed with pain, they were not thinking about equal weight of the lead-heavy tears of all mothers whose sons had disappeared, the children mourning the death of their parents or the suffering of sisters who had remained brotherless.

Over the ten long years, nobody had told them that every victim and every criminal had a name and surname, or that, when crimes were perpetrated against civilians, there were not two sides. No us and them, just humans and inhumans.

Desperately seeking their beloved ones who were missing and the places of their remains, the family members, with all ethnic backgrounds, got more and more firmly entrenched in their hate, with a “gunboat” view. And all the dismal family members of the victims were connected with a timeless grief, pain and trauma to follow them through the rest of their days. They were sharing, although they refused to see and admit it at the time, the same disappointment and dissatisfaction with the authorities and institutions in Prishtina and in Belgrade, as well as with the international community, for not addressing the issue of the missing persons and war crimes prosecution in a professional and accountable manner. The result of this failure to act was the lowering number of exhumations, year in – year out, fewer identifications of all persons missing in Kosovo and practically no prosecution of war crimes against Serbs and other non-Albanians.

Led by the experience from the region and beyond, the most renowned international institutions and organisations recognised the powerlessness of the association of the families of the missing and murdered civilians from all ethnic communities, to independently influence the expedition of the process of finding all the missing and to flag the violation of their fundamental human rights. The International Commission for Missing Persons (ICMP), International Red Cross Committee (ICRC), UNMIK, UNDP, Humanitarian Law Center, Open Society Foundation, Civic Initiatives, Integra... have taken the families through the process of facing the truth. That was the way towards better understanding, confidence and reconciliation of the members of former parties at war. And the most difficult reconciliation was between those whose members had been kidnapped and murdered.

The said organisations had held dozens of meetings, thematic round table discussions, conferences, workshops... before the parliamentarians, in institutions and embassies in Prishtina, Belgrade, across the region and European cities where the issues of missing persons and human rights violations are dealt with.

The way of bringing the families of missing persons from all ethnic communities aboard the same bus or plane, to the same conference room, at the same table, was thorny and oftentimes accompanied with verbal conflicts, misunderstanding and disrespect for each other, with no prospects of the ability to at least respect the pain of their fellow-sufferers from “the other side”, to start with. To recognise that, regardless of their nation or religion, the same ill fate connected them. In the conference rooms they would sit apart, juxtaposed to each other and communicating only within their own groups. During the breaks, they would look daggers at the “other ones” not even hiding their intolerance, at times even shouting out disparaging words and blaming it on each other for forced disappearances or atrocious deaths of their children, parents, brothers and sisters, spouses... even without known graves, considering them responsible as a nation.

After dozens of meetings and encounters organised for the representatives of the Serbian and Albanian families of the victims, it seemed that they would never have the will or the need to understand each other. To listen with attention and piety and accept the fact that bestial, most horrific crimes had been perpetrated by both sides. That the victims were old people, powerless, women, children, from all ethnic communities and that the same grief and pain for their loved ones were felt and coped with in the same way by Natasha, Bayram, Marinko, Djulla, Negovan, Sevda, now departed Milorad Trifunovic. They all found it strange and remote to think that they were actually bound together by the same pain that would never go away, the same suffering and hopelessness. And the same discontent with the authorities, domestic and international institutions and organisations, which failed the exam of humanity. Because they had not done anything for years, or had done very little, to restore dignity to the innocent victims and to systematically regulate the rights of their families.

And then, over time, for some expectedly and for other unexpectedly, during the encounters and meetings, the relations and communication between the Serbian and Albanian family members started changing. They began to shake hands, to sit one next to the other and to mutually communicate in a language of their neighbours which they had almost forgotten. During the process of facing the past and of public speeches and testimonials on the victimisation of their loved ones, they started showing sympathy for other victims and expressing understanding and respect for the people of other religion and ethnicity who shared the same suffering. The persistence in bringing together the Serbian and Albanian families of missing persons, demonstrated by the international organisations and institutions – ICMP, ICRC, UNMIK, UNDP, HLC, Civic Initiatives... have brought their idea into reality. Prejudice and stereotypes were overcome. Through the only acceptable form – dialogue, respecting the suffering and pain of “the other ones”, better understanding is enabled, as a way forward to mutual appreciation and, eventually, reconciliation.

Ten years ago, the above international organisations left it to the Serbian and Albanian associations of the families of missing persons to mutually agree, choose and decide on the continuation of joint activities and actions before the authorities and institutions in Belgrade and in Prishtina. And, in particular, before the international community. All these organisations have remained with the families of victims, whose joint actions and efforts they are supporting and financially assisting.

Gordana Piskavac

A REMINDER CRIMES AS A WARNING THAT THIS MUST NEVER HAPPEN TO ANYONE AGAIN

During the conflicts in Kosovo in 1998, 1999 and 2000, thousands of civilians disappeared and were killed - mostly the vulnerable ones. Crimes were committed by inhumans on both sides of the conflict. Every crime, whether it is a forced disappearance or murder, whether it is mass or individual, is unbeatable for life. And each one is painful, difficult, burdensome... Without explaining why their families were left without their loved ones and their loved ones suffered, these families did no harm to anyone either.

Thousands of civilians were killed in Kosovo, and each crime is equally grave, similar, but also different in its own way. How important is facing the truth and public advocacy – talking about the crimes that inhumans commit, is the fact that it is precisely the shocking stories that were publicly told in the spaces where members of Serbian and Albanian families of the missing sit together, awakened compassion and empathy and brought tears to the eyes of everyone, whatever nation or religion they are.

Equally respecting each victim, we will list only examples of mass suffering of the Sutakovic family from Gjakova and Bogujevci from Podujevo.

The entire Sutakovic family was exterminated in Gjakova

On September 10, 2019, the remains of the five-member Sutakovic family were buried in Andrijevisa - father Nedeljko (63), mother Darinka (58) and children Aleksandar (17) Đorđe (15) and Radoman (10), who were kidnapped by members of the so-called KLA on June 12, 1999 in Gjakova, and then executed. and in which the remains of seven missing Serbs were found. A search of the assigned nine potential locations has so far not been conducted. These are: Košare, Lapušnik near Glogovac, Dojnica near Prizren, Javor near Suva Reka, Lugovo near Istok, Budisavci and Baljevac near Klina, Livočko lake near Gnjilane and Meje near Gjakova.

Djordje and Darinka and their three minor sons – Aleksandar (17) Djordje (15) and Radoman (10) Sutakovic were abducted on June 12, 1999, in Gjakova. Their remains were found at the "Bunker" location in Gjakova, and forensic experts determined that the death occurred by the execution. They were buried on September 10, 2019, in the cemetery in Montenegro in Andrijevisa, the funeral was then held by Bishop Joanikije.

The instigators, perpetrators and perpetrators of this monstrous crime have not been found to date. This is just one of hundreds of mass crimes committed against Kosovo Serbs, which remained unpunished. The five-member Sutakovic family lived in their apartment, in the center of Gjakova. They lived modestly but happily on good terms with their neighbours -- mostly Albanians. And when the Serbs from Djakovica (Gjakova) and the surrounding area were expelled from their homes and headed into the unknown, the path of

central Serbia or Montenegro, the Sutakovic family remained in their city. And unfortunately, it turns out, they were wrong. In broad daylight, armed men in KLA uniforms stormed their apartment to the teeth. They tied their hands with wire, pushed them out of the apartment and took them to camps for Serbs, of which there were several in Djakovica. Their forcible removal from the apartment was reported to KFOR by an Albanian neighbour, who used to have coffee with Dara every morning. The kids went to school together and went to school together.

Twenty years after the enforced disappearance of the entire Sutakovic family, their remains were buried in the cemetery in Andrijevisa, Montenegro. Today, there are no more succulents in Gjakova. After the destruction and devastation of the Orthodox cemetery in Gjakova, there are no longer any traces of the fact that the Sutakovic family ever lived in this city.

Painful memories of Saranda Bogujevci

On March 28, 1999, around 10 a.m., a crime was committed against the Bogujevci family in Podujevo. The survivor, Saranda Bogujevci, who was fourteen years old at the time of the crime, spoke about this crime at the conference of confronting the truth organized by the Humanitarian Law Center. "Scorpions" killed Shpetima (10), Shpenda (13), Salya (39), Nora (15), Shefcata (43), Shahida (67). Five injured children survived, Saranda in 1985, Fatos in 1986, Jehona in 1988, Lyria in 1990 and Genc in 1993. "Scorpions" 75 years in prison for crime in Podujevo

Five members of the Scorpions group were sentenced to a total of 95 years in prison before the War Crimes Chamber of the Belgrade District Court for the murder of fourteen civilians in Podujevo. One of the most shocking testimonies about the suffering of almost the entire Bogujevci family from Podujevo at the conference on transitional justice and the necessity of facing the truth within the initiative for RECOM, families of the missing in the region, was spoken by Saranda Bogujevci. At the age of 14, she survived the massacre carried out by the "Scorpions" against her and her uncle's family. As she testified about the murders and injuries of her natives, sobs were heard in the hall. Saranda and four other children -- her siblings -- were seriously injured." The Scorpions didn't look back thinking that they, like the others, had mowed them down with a burst of fire. Five of them, after numerous difficult surgeries abroad, continued their lives with fears and trauma because, literally, they looked death in the eye. And they saw their mothers, brothers and sisters lying beside them in the yard.

Listening to this and other stories, testimonies about the suffering of their natives, family members of the victims from all ethnic communities, learned and learned to listen to each other, to share in their pain, to better understand each other... To realize over time how fatefully connected they are. Because pain, sadness, trauma, hopelessness... They are just as heavy and big. It was that primordial thread that connected Serbian and Albanian families.

**LISTENING TO THE MOST REASONABLE
AND LEARNING FROM THEM,
THE YOUNG ASSOCIATION MEMBERS
HAVE JOINED THE STRUGGLE TO
SEEK ALL THE MISSING ONES**



Ylber Morina, Senior Official of the Civil Society Initiatives Programme of the International Commission on Missing Persons:

FROM PASSIONATE MONOLOGUES TO CONSTRUCTIVE DIALOGUE

Since 1999, the International Commission on Missing Persons (ICMP) has been working to resolve the issue of persons who went missing as a result of the Kosovo conflict. ICMP decided to encourage and encourage authorities and institutions in Pristina and Belgrade to speed up the process of locating all missing persons and assist families in exercising their rights. ICMP has been making its major contribution to the process of identifying persons through DNA analysis since 2003 with UNMIK, later with EULEX's Department of Forensic Medicine, and more recently with the Institute of Forensic Medicine.

Families of the missing play a key role in the process of finding missing persons during and after the conflict. Not only is the engagement of the families of the missing necessary for a DNA-based identification process, but it is equally vital in terms of holding authorities accountable for the search for the identification of all missing persons. We have seen the possible importance of joint action and activities of representatives of Serbian and Albanian families in this process, believing that their joint statements will have resonance.

However, this process of joint family activities between Serbs and Albanians in Kosovo has not been easy. In 2006, ICMP launched the project "Addressing the Past" for representatives of Serbian and Albanian associations of families of the missing in Kosovo and Serbia. The idea was to organize a workshop on the same topic, dealing with the past, separately for The Serbian representatives of the missing and for the Albanian representatives of the missing. The ultimate aim of organizing a joint workshop with representatives of Serbs and Albanians in the near future, where they would jointly discuss their concerns so that the demands of families would have more power towards institutions responsible for clarifying the fate of their loved ones.

We were not surprised that during the workshops, both sides, both Serbs and Albanians, were against any joint meeting, "blaming the other side for their family tragedy".

In May 2009, ICMP, together with the Nansen Academy, organized a workshop "Interethnic Dialogue" in Lillehammer, Norway, attended by five representatives of Serbian and Albanian families. Logistical organization of travel was very difficult. Family members did not accept to take the same transport to the airport. At the airport, the groups were completely separated and we, as organizers, had to follow both Serbs and Albanians at the same time. I was forced to run from one corner of the airport to the other.

The next challenge was during the meeting, where the emotions of each representative were great, with accusations from one side at the expense of the other side. However, after a seven-day stay in Norway, representatives of Serbian and Albanian families began to recognize that they shared pain, that they were equally suffering for their loved ones, whatever they were called. They recognized the concern and hopelessness of all present, as well as dissatisfaction with the failure of domestic and international institutions and organizations to find the last of the integrated list of missing persons in Kosovo. As a result, we have agreed, accepted and reached joint conclusions, and forwarded them to the offices of the most powerful countries in the world as well as to the UN office in New York.

Joint meetings have continued in the following years, until today, by organizing joint workshops, thematic round tables, jointly marking the International Day of the Disappeared in Pristina and Belgrade, press conferences... with the presence of an increasing number of family members of the missing.

However, a number of representatives of family associations are still against such joint activities and this poses a challenge for increasing the number of representatives of Serbian and Albanian families of civilian victims in joint lobbying towards domestic and international institutions, responsible for the process of resolving the cases of all missing persons.

As before, ICMP will continue to support and assist the activities and joint activities of associations as well as families of missing persons from all ethnic communities in Kosovo because we believe that families are more visible and stronger on the way to achieving their goals.



Natasha Scepanovic, Istok

WE HAVE THE RIGHT TO KNOW

Meeting in Ohrid

One of the first joint meetings between Serb and Albanian families of missing persons, organised in Ohrid, was uncertain and without much expectation. The consequences of the conflict in Kosovo were enormous, so that the two opposing sides would find the strength to communicate normally and look each other in the eyes as they once did.

We have lived together side by side for centuries, sharing good and evil, accepting and respecting differences and divisions. And then there were conflicts... The fire smouldered in Kosovo, which gradually spread and engulfed most of the area. In this fire of conflict, sadly hatred, evil and terror prevailed.

It is difficult to accurately measure all the extent of suffering and all that amount of misfortune and evil, horror and bestiality. We met in Ohrid because we had missing persons and their families on two sides who went in search of them. For many of them, this search continues to this day. We met through the International Commission on Missing Persons (ICMP), which was the initiator and organizer of the joint meeting. We had an agenda and had the opportunity to present our comment, or to ask questions to representatives of competent institutions and organizations. There were different exposures. They all contained intolerance, pain, sadness, condemnation. They accused the Serbian state leadership, the army and the police, and we blamed members of the KLA, KFOR and UNMIK...

During the meeting and during the breaks, we were separated into two groups. They in one, we in the other... There have been individual attempts to approach someone in order to ask a question, or to ask for some information.

I felt helpless, sad and disappointed. My wounded heart hurt so much. The very thought that coming to Ohrid meant that we could not go to our homes in our native land, but bypass it, has been very difficult for me. I envied them, because they all returned to their homes, unlike us, who mostly returned to some new addresses or residences.

They were angry with us, and I felt that we had more reason to be dissatisfied and resigned. We parted somehow, aware of the fact that our relationships will never be like they used to be. Our post-war burden is too heavy to carry in heart and soul, but we must move on. We must persevere in a just struggle for truth and justice, for the sake of our innocent victims and for the future of generations to come.



The joint celebration of the International Day of the Disappeared, Belgrade 2022

Resolving the issue of missing persons is an important humanitarian, legal and moral issue. The process of reconciliation and the construction of multiethnic societies based on democracy, the rule of law and mutual tolerance depends largely on its resolution. We ask for the protection of our rights in all forms. First, the right to know about the fates of our neighbours and the right to a worthy burial of all missing and killed from all ethnic communities in Kosovo and Metohija.

In addition to many years of dedication and great effort to, as families of all the missing, influence the acceleration of the process of finding all abductees, we are not satisfied with what has been achieved. And we did everything in our power to make it different.

We have become speakers, participants, mediators, editors... Even though we didn't want it or want it. Because our only goal was to get answers to the questions of who, why, where and how... We all want to find our children, parents, brothers and sisters, friends and neighbours. And that is why, even after 23 years since the end of the conflict in Kosovo, we demand responsibility, determination, courage, humanity, impartiality, efficiency in the work of all relevant factors, we ask for compassion, recognition.

They drag us through projects, educational workshops, forums, transitional justice, gatherings, conferences, to hire us and to occupy in a perfidious way even this little common sense that we have left, to ignore prejudices and stereotypes, to overcome ourselves.

Bayram Gjerkinaj, Kosovska Mitrovica

THE DISAPPEARED, YET NO ONE'S CONCERN

Meetings with families of the missing in Kosovo, from 2006 until 2010, were held in all centres of power, without any visible effect.

Even before the armed conflicts in Kosovo ended, families of the forcibly missing began searching for their missing persons on their own, and later organized into associations aimed at finding and burying every missing person with dignity. Over time, we realized that this humanitarian issue must be dealt with by authorities, domestic and international institutions. We turned to them daily for help, knowing from the beginning that power and truth were in their hands. To how does anyone, in relation to the competences and obligations they have, have reports, minutes, photos, satellite images.... Neither then nor today did/do I understand why they were hiding the truth they knew from us, shifting the responsibility to each other. Their lack of interest and the lack of will to find all the missing has turned us towards international organizations that

deal with missing persons and human rights violations, embassies and those who make the most important decisions in the world. Driven mad with pain and sadness as the years go by, and the number of exhumations and identifications is decreasing, we asked, appealed, begged to help us. The first meetings with families of missing persons from all ethnic communities were organised by the International Commission on Missing Persons (ICMP). Although grateful for providing us with support and assistance, from the beginning I opposed organizing meetings, round tables and meetings individually - first with Albanian families of the missing, and then with Serbian ones. I knew and have spoken publicly that this is not a good way to deal with the past and a better mutual understanding. I insisted that the groups be mixed, that we look into each other's eyes, that we get hatred, anger, misunderstanding and misunderstanding out of ourselves that we all suffer equally. Like everyone else, I felt that our wounds were still fresh, that our hearts were bleeding, that we did not accept that all sides had committed crimes. And in fact, the only truth was that there were only good and bad people. Those evil ones, who led our families into pain and sorrow, blinded by the hatred that clouded our minds and the pain with which we still live today. At first, many Albanians and Serbs did not want to enter the same room or room. Let alone talk to each other. I especially remember the seven-day stay of Albanian and Serbian families missing in Norway, from the spring of 2007, as if it were yesterday. I remember entering the great hall where we were supposed to talk about the topic: Why are we here? We were divided into two groups, and my first question was: Why am I divided here? I asked the organizers not to look at us only as Albanians and Serbs, because both of us have the same problem, the search for our loved ones who disappeared in the war. Trifa (the late Milorad Trifunovic) who was sitting next to me, hugged me and cried, and if many of us did not understand, the two of us continued the difficult and long struggle to find the last Albanian and the Serb. In this and in the numerous meetings that followed, we have long agreed on joint conclusions that we have delivered to the authorities in Pristina and Belgrade and representatives of international missions in Kosovo. For the most part, we didn't get any answers.

With the support and assistance of organisations like the ICMP, UNDP, The British Embassy and the EU, which have recognized the benefits of joint action of Albanian and Serb families of the missing, in the last ten years, some of the associations of Albanian and Serbian families of victims, independently organize numerous joint activities. Even now, some of the families of the victims do not understand and do not support our joint action, but we are sure that we are on the right path to better mutual understanding. At numerous meetings of Serbian and Albanian associations of families of missing and killed civilians, we have come to the common conclusion that the international and local community does not take the issue of missing persons seriously. During the Conflict in Kosovo, nothing was done without the countries that had their soldiers there, they did not know it. Politicians are still holding us hostage, because they can push this process both in Belgrade and Prishtina, and international representatives owe us a lot because they have satellite imagery. At each of the joint meetings of the Albanian and Serbian families of the missing and deceased, we wonder again why, with all modern technology, every part of Kosovo was recorded by satellite, the missing could not be found even after a quarter of a century. Long ago, all European and world's powers that be and institutions should have realized that the issue of missing persons not only for families today and in the coming years will be the most important issue. If we really want reconciliation in the region.

Marinko Djuric, Istok:

WE ARE ALL LOSERS OF THE 1990S.

25 October 2007

The importance of some politicians in the region previously devoted to the issues of missing persons and the prosecution of war crimes, perhaps best illustrates that the multiethnic meeting in Novi Vinodolski was opened by the then representative of the Croatian government Jadranka Kosor in the presence of ICMP Director Catherine Bomberger.

All representatives of the families of the missing in the region, on the first day, had the opportunity to present themselves and say something more about the work and activities of their associations. For the following day, joint talks were planned between the families of the victims of the wars of the 1990s on the territory of the former Yugoslavia. For us, the families of the missing from Kosovo, it was envisaged that in a mixed composition, we would talk in the same room in the presence of moderators from ICMP.

The atmosphere after the opening was quite tense especially between Serbs and Albanians because Kosovo was not represented as the Republic of Kosovo, but as Kosovo under UN administration. The organizers of the gathering, as well as representatives of the Government Commission for Missing Persons of the Republic of Serbia, insisted on this, and families supported such an approach.

When the ambiguities were resolved, Serbian and Albanian families continued to communicate with each other. For the first time, we listened to and heard the speech of family members of civilian victims from all ethnic communities in Kosovo, trying to "leave the trenches in which we were buried." It's as if neither of us wanted to know and admit that crimes were committed on all sides. We weren't ready to believe it completely, but each of us knew at least someone who had behaved dishonourably in his midst. And when there is a state of war, then even more manifest these bad qualities of bad people who have heroized over the weak.

Such an evil fate was met by my father Peter, a seriously ill sixty-nine-year-old. In the same Ljusic house there were his son-in-law, Mihajlo Vulic, a disabled old man and my aunt Djurdja. They died in the night, waiting for KFOR to transfer them to central Serbia by schedule in the morning.

Each of us was given the opportunity to present our testimony, without hiding the pain and suffering and trauma that continues to this day. A small number of crimes have been prosecuted. Many of the eyewitnesses and witnesses of these crimes are not among the living, so the opportunity was missed for the institutions responsible to collect, document, publish and prosecute all these crimes, so there is no one left to talk about many of them.

Listening to each other, facing the past, we got a chance to realize that there were innocent victims on both sides. That one should not look passionately and unilaterally at crimes, but that criminals answer regardless of what religion and nation they are. I felt that we were all losers in these conflicts and that there were no winners among those who had lost at least one member of their family. Not everyone understood this idea the same way. I could even ask myself, "What have they done to us?" Fortunately, later there were more and more of us on both sides who accepted the fact that there is no collective responsibility and guilt, but that every criminal, as well as every victim, has a first and last name. In the meetings and meetings that were organised in the following years, until today, the number of us who have thought in the same way about the absence of collective guilt has increased. At the end of the meeting in Novi Vinodolski, we started calling each other neighbours, which we were until 1999.

Gjilja Haziri, Kosovska Mitrovica:

ONLY TOGETHER CAN WE OBTAIN THE TRUTH ABOUT THE MISSING.

A lot of time and efforts have been invested by of all of us, representatives of Albanian and Serbian families of the missing, to defeat hatred, prejudice, stereotypes, misunderstanding... We have distinguished ourselves present here and those we represent, convinced that together we are stronger, that by joint engagement, activities and messages, we can quickly reach the finding of all the missing. I am in favour of the fact that truth has no sides, that we have the same goal and that we should continue to work and act together. Unfortunately, we did not finish the job because there are 1,620 more people on the integrated list of missing persons. What we started a long time ago is now continued by young people, members of our associations who have understood and accepted the importance of our common struggle. And we believe that their engagement will produce better results than ours.

Gordana Djikanovic, Prishtina

"IT'S LIKE THE BISTRICA (THE CLEARWATER) HAS CLEARED OUR MINDS."

Since 2006, primarily organized by the International Commission on Missing Persons, a dozen meetings of families of missing persons have been held at the regional level, as well as bilateral- only members of Serbian and Albanian families of civilian victims. Although conceived as a joint, these meetings can be called in the first years, mainly because the participants, during these meetings, just sat in the same halls. We sat nationally grouped, for years without the desire to hear and understand each other. We neither greeted nor talked at the breaks of the meetings, traveling on the same transport as if we had not come to the common meetings that were supposed to have the mutual respect of all the victims and compassion for the members of their families, whatever religion or nation they were. It's as if we didn't feel the pain for our loved ones in the same way. As if we should not have searched and found from the beginning a way to speed up the process of finding all the missing, how to get all the criminals the deserved punishment... How can we be stronger together... and all these numerous meetings, meetings, workshops- resembled each other. We were violently, often as if we deliberately wanted to, hurt each other, reacted violently and complained when we heard someone speaking a different language. And they parted again without a visible shift in communication, and I will not greet each other. And then, as a result of steps towards better understanding, without us even being aware of it or not wanting to admit it to ourselves and others, our joint meeting in Prizren, March 2015, came as a turning point. It was as if the River Bistrica had cleared our minds and opened our eyes and, quietly murmuring, showed how to proceed.

Without harsh words or opposition, for the first time we agreed to talk only about what we had in common. And this is the pain and pain for our most born, how to find a way to force domestic authorities and institutions, as well as international ones, to finally start dealing with the issues of missing persons and prosecuting crimes responsibly. they forwarded to the authorities in Belgrade and Pristina, representatives of international missions and institutions.

Then, in Prizren, we realized that numerous previous meetings were not in vain and that we all, family members from all ethnic communities who suffered in Kosovo, had to go through a long, thorny path of liberation from prejudices about the collective guilt of the entire nation. The process of facing the truth took years, but our determination and perseverance to stay on this path have made us stronger to speak with one voice, although in different languages, which is more powerfully heard than individual appeals and demands that all the missing be found and those responsible for the suffering of our loved ones and ourselves, their family members, prosecuted and justly punished.

Meeting of Serbian and Albanian families of missing persons in Prizren, March 2015

Milorad Trifunović, Vucitrn

WITHOUT GIVING OUR BLOOD SAMPLES, THERE'S NO FINDING THE MISSING

One of the big problems, which we have not yet found a way to resolve, is mis-identification. In 1999, without DNA analysis, using the classical method of identification, 2000 faces were buried. All of them, except for one person, were of Albanian nationality. Only 90% of family members who reported missing their loved ones donated blood for DNA analysis. Both Serbian and Albanian associations of the missing have made an effort to explain to these families the importance of giving a blood sample, without which we cannot even hope to reveal the truth about all the missing in Kosovo and Metohija. In the morgue of the Prishtina hospital, there are the remains of about four hundred more unidentified bodies. In addition, a number of remitted potential locations remained unexplored or insufficiently examined.

When we know all this, we are almost certain that we will leave the issue of finding all the missing in Kosovo as a burden to the younger generations with the hope that as many cases of missing persons as possible will be resolved. That is why we include as many young or younger members as possible in the work of our associations, aware that onto them we are transferring the burden that we have been carrying for years.

(Joint commemoration of the Day of the Disappeared, Pristina 2018)

IN MEMORIAM

Nuri Damati, Kosovska Mitrovica

WITHOUT FORGETTING THE PAST, WE STRIVE FOR A BETTER FUTURE.

Workshop with young people from Serbian and Albanian associations of the families of missing persons in Novi Pazar, September 2022

Younger members of the Serb and Albanian families of the missing met for the first time at a workshop in Novi Pazar. It was a new experience for all of us. In the beginning, as we found out through mutual communication, most of us were sceptical that we would be able to plan new activities at all. Divided into two mixed groups, we quickly overcame the barrier of not speaking the language of our peers aware of the importance that is expected of us young people, and above all driven by the desire to move faster towards mutual understanding. Remembering the past and wishing for a better future. We proposed to the organizer (UNDP) ideas about our further work together. We have formulated and presented problems, issues and topics that we want to transform into joint projects based on identical attitudes, while respecting diversity.

After the workshop in Novi Pazar, perhaps belatedly, but we realized that the burden of the unresolved issue of missing persons will remain on our generation with the active participation and support of older members.



Jelena Vujnovic, Prishtina

THE APPROACH OF YOUNG MEMBERS, A NEW DIRECTION FOR JOINT ACTION

Workshop with young people from Serbian and Albanian associations of the families of missing persons in Novi Pazar, September 2022

When the armed conflicts in Kosovo ended, many of us young members of Albanian and Serb families of civilian victims who had lost our loved ones were not even born, or were children. About the horrors and consequences of these conflicts, we knew what our parents told us, or we learned something in school.

We knew little but enough to create prejudices that only one side in the war committed crimes against others and that the victims against innocent civilians were only on one side. And with such a feeling we grew up in Prishtina, Kosovska Mitrovica, as well as our peers in Belgrade.

To get a broader, clearer picture of these evil times helped us when we started to get involved in the work of associations of families of the missing, who were already establishing cooperation and acting together.

In the beginning, we were only silent observers and listened with attention to how and what the elderly members of the Albanian and Serbian families of the victims were talking about.

We saw and understood after a dozen joint meetings in Nis, Prizren, Belgrade... They speak the same language. The language of sorrow and pain. In the language of hopelessness and dissatisfaction that those responsible perceive the issue of the missing not as a humanitarian, but a political issue. The results of their lack of interest in finding the last of the missing persons are almost invisible.

At the workshop in Novi Pazar, the first to gather young family members of all ethnic communities and we, who until yesterday did not communicate much with each other, spoke in the same voice. As our elderly relatives have been communicating for years, wishing to speed up the process of finding out the truth about all the missing in Kosovo. We worked in ethnically mixed groups. And if some of us spoke only Serbian or only Albanian, and most of us spoke English, we were able to quickly agree and propose further directions of our activities.



Stefan Scepanovic, Osojane

VICTIMS, AS WELL AS CRIMINALS, HAVE NO ETHNICITY

There must be no more double standards and division into more or less important victims. Victims have no ethnicity and, if such animosity continues, it will be a repeated crime. That is why together we must put pressure on the institutions in Belgrade and Prishtina to open the archives. And the Western archives, too. Of course, there has to be political will for that. Without it, we will not be able to systematically enter into solving the problem of missing and murdered."
(Vrnjacka Banja, 2022)

Budimir Maslar, Peć

WORKING TOGETHER IS ALREADY DELIVERING RESULTS.

Many meetings and years passed since we, the representatives of the Serbian families of the missing and our fellow Albanians, looked at each other silently, not realizing that, in fact, we speak the same language. In the language of sorrow, pain, hopelessness, it seems futile hope that we will ever find all our missing. With time and persistence to "stick together", we realized that they all have one name, regardless of whether they are Serbs, Albanians or something else... As long as nothing is known about them, until their families receive their earthly remains in order to bury them worthily, they all have a common name. They're all called "missing." And there are a lot of them. That is why I do not give up on the search for the truth about the victims of Kosovo, but Also motivate young members to continue this fight of ours.

Negovan Mavric, Velika Hoca

EXPLAIN TO YOUNG PEOPLE WHAT HAPPENED TO US IN THE PAST

At the meeting of the Association of Families of Kosovo Victims and representatives of the Resource Centre held in Pristina, Negovan Mavric pointed out: "The Multiethnic Resource Centre for Missing Persons in Pristina has merged what was considered impossible, namely the families of the missing and killed in Kosovo, of different nationalities that are jointly seeking a solution to speed up the truth about all the missing in Kosovo. In the five years of existence of this Resource Centre, over two thousand members have passed through this organization. Over 700 meetings were held, and no incidents were ever recorded. Roma, Ashkali, Serbs, Albanians... One of our most important goals is to explain to young people what happened in the past, so that everything we experienced does not happen again in the future."

THANKS TO THEM, WE HAVE RECOGNISED
AND EMBRACED THE JUNCTIONS,
NEGLECTING THE PARTITIONS



THEY WERE KIDNAPPED BECAUSE THEY WERE CALLED UKSHIN, ANDRIJA, OSMAN, MILAN....

I'm always excited to meet family members. It is not easy to be a civil servant who is expected to do her job even if she is prevented from doing so in many situations. It is incomparably more difficult to be one of the family members of the kidnapped, twenty-three years long. I became a member of the Association in March 2000 and if none of my natives disappeared. Back in the 2000s, I imagined what it was like for my children to disappear for an hour, my parents, my brother, my sister, and then I realised that it was very difficult for you and that we should be there for you and help as much as we can. And 23 years after, we are pecking at the perimeter, we do not have the results we expected, but we are together. Regardless of what is achieved or not achieved, we will continue to talk and write about this problem, because only in this way will the issue of missing persons be solved, if the process of searching is alive and if every day 1630 families who lost their loved ones are mentioned. I will not say anything new when I say today, on the International Human Rights Day, that all the rights of those kidnapped in Kosovo and their families were violated, and are still being violated today. This list of human rights is long enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. First, the right to life, the prohibition of torture, the right to liberty and security, the right to a fair trial, the right to equality, the right to nationality, the right to freedom of movement and other rights and all were violated. The right to freedom of movement - they were stopped on the road where they always moved freely. Only at one point did someone give himself the right to stop someone and kidnap him just because he was of another nation or religion. They were kidnapped because they were called: Ukshin, Andrija, Osman, Milan, Sinan, Dragan... They did not have a fair trial, they were tortured, killed, their right to life was taken away. The issue of missing persons always reminds us that as long as it remains unresolved, we wonder if we have any rights at all. Every right is subject to a certain obligation. The problem of missing persons and the rights of their families must not remain on the margins of public and government interest. That, at best, we meet like that for three or four months and only then talk about missing persons. To all of us who in any way deal with the rights of missing persons, it is our duty to give voice to those who have lost him forever and on whose behalf we fight tirelessly, no matter how many years behind us and how many years we will all deal with this issue together. The abductees have only one last right to rest with dignity in a place where they deserve eternal peace. The easiest thing to do is to give up, to stop the process. Now, in April, it will have been

three years since the delegations of Belgrade and Pristina, within the working group that alone has a mandate to deal with missing persons, met last time. Neither the appeals of families, nor the attitude of the international community have yielded fruit. If it had wanted to, the international community would have probably stopped the conflict before it happened. Bayram is looking for a son, Natasha is looking for a mother, Djilja's wife, Budo is looking for a sister, and Slavi and Smiljka's parents... Who has the right to take away the truth and the truth?

What we call upon all of us here to do is to urgently unblock the process and remove politics from this humanitarian issue. Now they expect me to say something new. I've been a little optimistic lately. What I can tell you is that after three years of stalemate, on January 31, 2024, a working session of the working group will be held to discuss the locations that need to be searched, about archives, identifications, we will exchange information about locations, there will be a time limit for when these activities should be carried out. We, as the Commission, did not stop working, we managed to get information about almost twenty locations. The first thing we will do is ask Pristina to investigate these potential locations. Probably the Commission in Belgrade, as well as in Pristina, could have done more and better. We will think after this day and meeting you, how much more we can do. I apologize for not having anything new to say. Sometimes I tell myself, I'm ashamed in front of my family, but if it was up to us alone, we would certainly do more.



The organizers, as well as Serbian and Albanian families of the missing in Kosovo, sent a strong message and a request to those on whose will the faster obtaining of the truth about the missing depends, from the roundtables held in Vrdnik, Nis and Vrnjacka Banja.

"OPEN THE ARCHIVES, EXCHANGE INFORMATION, FIND ALL MISSING PERSONS"

Uros Mamic (Embassy of the United Kingdom in Belgrade):

We support all forms of your joint action

"We support meetings like this and all forms of joint action from which you send the same strong message to authorities and institutions that you expect more fruitful cooperation from them. Having an awareness that institutions should be and are a service to citizens is something I hear from your addresses. In terms of responsibility for their work towards citizens, as taxpayers - part of the system that finances the work of these institutions. That is why you also have the right to request their work report, on improving methods and ways of communication in order to quickly learn the truth about your missing. And, for the sake of that, you expect better cooperation with them, so I urge you to insist on it. In this case, to seek the resolution of the fate of your loved ones. This provides legitimacy to your expectations and your demands on them and ensures the presence of institutions that work for you. I urge you to use the power and legitimacy of your request to invite representatives of the institutions representing you to attend. This is not the legitimacy and mandate of international organizations. This is the mandate that you have as representatives of civil society to strengthen ties between Belgrade and Prishtina.

We want you to build a better future and you are certainly on the right track. Your partnership sends a strong message that working together is the way to solve problems faster. We are here to support you and remain committed to supporting you to persevere in your joint efforts to find out the fate of all those on the missing persons list."

Ivan Jovanovic (UNDP)

The power of your shared messages is great.

"We recognised your need and determination to send a strong message through joint performances that you will not give up on the demand that all the missing be found. We want to help you communicate with all institutions, bodies and organizations the conclusions that you will make here, related to their mandate and obligations, when it comes to missing, as well as to the media.

The power of your message is great. No one can be immune when they receive a unique message written by the families of Albanian and Serb victims.

The lack of good communication and exchange of information between Belgrade and Prishtina is the most important segment that you always cite as an obstacle to finding all missing persons faster. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, UNDP had a good experience organizing meetings of families of missing persons from the local level with the Prosecutor's Office, entity prosecutor's offices and police... During these meetings, not only did the families of the missing learn a lot of information from state institutions, but also vice versa - state institutions learned a number of important, new information from the association of victims' families. We are ready to support you, to help you achieve this kind of communication with the exchange of information and directly influence the location of potential graves, new exhumations and identifications."

Francine Pickup, UNDP Resident Representative Serbia:

Resampling will resolve possible errors

Within the project "Improving search for missing persons in the Republic of Serbia", implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and funded by the Government of the United Kingdom, from 17 to 20 October 2019, a workshop was organised in Vrdnik in support of associations of families of missing persons, from the conflicts in the territory of the former SFRY, during the 1990s

"The problem of misidentification by the classical method, which was applied before the establishment of DNA analysis by ICMP, imposes the need for all such cases to be solved through repeated blood sampling or swabbing of family members of the missing. In agreement and agreement with the institutions dealing with this, the existing associations of missing Serbs and Albanians play an indispensable and key role. UNDP has supported and will support institutions and all those dealing with the issues of missing persons, in order to find and identify as many missing persons as possible. It is very good and important for families of missing communities to cooperate, but it is also necessary for institutions to cooperate. Because, the exchange and disclosure of information would certainly contribute to the acceleration of the process, and the result - a significantly larger number of identifications, would not be absent. It would mean greater access to justice." Francis Pickup appealed for the adoption of the Law on Missing Persons in Serbia, which the surrounding countries already have, so that families of the missing could exercise their rights.

The First Secretary of the British Embassy in Belgrade Chantelle Kerr:

Losing someone of your own in war creates the deepest pain

"We believe that resolving the issue of missing persons is a necessary condition for reconciliation and full normalization of relations between countries in the region. War and the devastation of war is a terrible experience for all those who have been exposed to them. Losing someone of your own in war creates the deepest pain. I believe it is even more painful not to know the fate of your loved ones. So, as long as there is a suspicion that someone does not want to reveal the whereabouts of the missing, we cannot say that the consequences of the war conflicts have been repaired. True reconciliation and healing of the wounds that war

brings is a long and demanding process. Nowhere and never in the world has it been easy to eliminate all the consequences of war conflicts. It can be said that it is almost easiest to reach a political agreement on reconciliation. Even when an agreement is reached among politicians, for someone who has lost his family member or who does not know the fate of his loved ones, it does not mean much. It is very difficult to heal the wounds of family members who have lost loved ones, and perhaps even more so who, like you for years, and now for decades, do not know about the fate of their loved ones.

I would like you to know that we will remain committed to all the processes that bring justice to all those who innocently perished in some war conflict. This requires the most sincere efforts of both the government and the wider communities to do everything to try to find the missing and to punish those who committed the crimes. I know this cannot alleviate your pain, but the experience of many war conflicts in the world has shown that both cherishing the memory of innocently victims and respecting the wider community for them bring a kind of relief. It's much more painful when yours are gone, in a way forgotten by the wider community.

We will continue to support the common struggle of families of the missing towards true reconciliation and healing of the wounds that war brings, as well as your perseverance and persistence, as this process is likely to take a long time to come.

Jasna Hajder (UNDP):

The role of the association is irreplaceable.

"In the process of resolving the destinies of the missing in Kosovo, the existing associations of missing Serbs and Albanians that have good communication and successfully cooperate have an indispensable and key role. UNDP has supported and will support institutions and all those dealing with the issues of missing persons, in order to find and identify as many missing persons as possible. It is very good and important for families of missing communities to cooperate, but it is also necessary for institutions to cooperate. Because, the exchange and disclosure of information would certainly contribute to the acceleration of the process, and the result - a significantly larger number of identifications, would not be absent. This would mean greater access to justice.

I would also appeal for the adoption of the Law on Missing Persons in Serbia, which the countries in the region already have, so that families of the missing can exercise their rights."

Jelena Stijacic, Head of the Delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross, Belgrade:

Persistent workSpeeding up the process of finding the missing

The support of the International Committee of the Red Cross for families of missing persons in Kosovo continues. At the meeting of the ICRC Belgrade Delegation with family members of the missing in Kosovo, they also discussed the current status of missing persons files, as well as the activities undertaken by the ICRC

in resolving the fate of the missing in Kosovo.

"We've known each other and we've been together for over 20 years and none of us could have believed that this process would take this long and be so painful. This is how long and persistent the struggle and countless activities of the ICRC and the families of the missing have been going on to find as many missing persons as possible. The results, however, are not proportionate, not proportionate to the effort made given the number of unsolved cases, especially in recent years. The reason for this is primarily in the inertia, in the absence of initiatives of those who should have been sincerely dedicated to solving the issue of the missing. The fact is that the process has been politicized and has almost stopped.

How do we live with the loss and memory of the missing? The International Committee of the Red Cross continued to assist family members of the missing through psychosocial support. Support involves working with families on the subject of life with loss, as well as developing memories of missing members and presenting them to this community in a way that will show that they had names, and character. If they were exemplary members of our community, loved, had their own jobs and hobbies and simply, they existed in this society and not only as statistical numbers," emphasized Jelena Stijacic.

Humanist and intellectual with attitude – Bekim Bljakaj, director of the Humanitarian Law Center Kosovo

Everyone counts their respective victims.

Twenty-two years after the end of the Kosovo war, only the victims of one side are still being looked at and counted, denying and neglecting the victims on the other side. In this way, one-sided narratives are created. Young generations of Serbs and Albanians have a completely conflicting opinion about what happened 22 years earlier.

The right of victims to justice and their families' right to truth is crucial, but until now it has been impossible for perpetrators to be held accountable for their misdeeds. For both societies, victims and families, it is important that we at least acknowledge the victims and their pain. The worst thing is if we continue to deny the victims from other ethnic communities. I think that the key problem, and at this moment, is that there is really no political will to solve this problem, regardless of the fact that the institutions of Kosovo and Serbia declare that they see the issue of missing persons as an exclusively humanitarian issue. However, I must say that politicians in both Prishtina and Belgrade see the issue of missing persons solely as a political issue, which explains the reason for the stalemate in the process of finding all the missing.



COMMON WORDS AND APPEALS ARE HEARD MORE STRONGLY AND STILL REACH OUT

Even a quarter of a century later, families of the missing persons and victims from all ethnic communities lost during and after the conflict in Kosovo, are still living their days of violence, suffering, desolation. Especially those who still do not know the fate of their most loved ones who have not been buried and are afraid that they will not live to see it.

A long time ago, not an easy path to a better relationship.

We have learned to listen to each other, to honour each other's grief and pain, to empathize with anyone who is experiencing trauma from the loss of their loved one, no matter what religion or nation they are. A heavy tear of compassion runs down our faces. Our inability to find all the missing and suffering will continue as long as we live. Today, the integrated list of missing persons still includes the names of about 1,620 people, whose fate has not been resolved. They don't know if they're alive, or if they don't know where their graves are. In DNA analysis labs, instead of their names, there is a number and a code. And each of them was someone's son, father, brother, mother, sister... We, the members of their families, for the past quarter of a century, have wept all tears. But we did not tire of searching for the truth about our dearest, fighting for justice and truth. We have no right to forget. We have no fear of saying who is to blame for the list of missing persons being almost frozen, which is less and less exhumation and identification, and our agony continues.

Institutions, both international and domestic, have failed. They failed the humanity test. The heaviest responsibility is that the issue of kidnapped and missing persons, in all previous years, has not found itself on the negotiating table of Belgrade and Pristina in Brussels. Recently, the missing have begun to get mentioned, but not to responsibly and sincerely seek common modalities in order to speed up the process of revealing the truth about the fate of about 1,620 more persons.

It took a long time for all of them to realize that the issue of the missing not only for us, their families, is the most important issue. It is quite certain that without the resolution of the fate and the last person kidnapped or missing in Kosovo, there can be no progress. There is no reconciliation or peace in the region, and all officials point out that this is the most important thing for them. That's why we rightly ask: Make a deal and do what should have been done a long time ago. Open archives, exchange information, find all missing persons. Let's restore dignity to all innocent victims and their families!"

We ask ourselves again and again: How is it possible that we, family members of civilian victims from all ethnic communities, manage to sit down at the same table, talk and try to find a way to those on whom the resolution of the fate of our natives depends. While those, who, although they do not have their victims and disappeared, have neither the will nor the desire, nor the sadness, are burdened, but are obliged to solve these problems, cannot find a common language and end the agony of the families of the missing, which lasts for a quarter of a century.

We, the elderly members of the families of the missing, place great hope in those to whom we leave the burden of resolving the fate of all the missing. In this common struggle, young people are increasingly involved who understand each other better and communicate more easily. All together, we cope with accumulated and unresolved problems with the support and help of some domestic institutions, as well as international organizations dealing with missing persons and human rights issues. Without their support and help, the results of the joint action and activities of the Serbian and Albanian families of the missing would not be as they are today and, we hope, as they will be in the coming years.

Jordanas Dikavovic

COMMON CONCLUSIONS, AS THEY ONCE WERE

In November 2012, a conference for families of the missing from Kosovo was held in Skopje, North Macedonia, with the participation of 20 Albanian and 20 Serbian representatives of families of the missing, as well as domestic and international institutions.

1. Kosovo and Serbia need to increase the scope of activities on the collection of information on the locations of hidden graves, including the review of all archives and the possibility of using satellite imagery and other available means/modern technological methods to improve field activities, i.e. excavations and exhumations in cooperation with the international community.
2. The issue of graves whose occurrence is related to the conflict in Kosovo, but are located outside the territory of Kosovo, should be jointly resolved by the relevant institutions of Pristina and Belgrade in cooperation with the international community.
3. For various reasons, including the fact that people disappeared across geopolitical borders, it is necessary to thoroughly consider the possibilities of creating a list of persons missing from the conflicts in the former Yugoslavia at the end of the 20th century - which should include a consolidated list of missing persons from Kosovo.
4. Is it too early to talk about common memorials and commemorations?
5. Provide education for families of missing persons on the use of legal opportunities in gaining access to information of public interest with the aim of collecting information on missing persons and hidden graves.
6. It is necessary to meet all prerequisites in order to act on the basis of legal principles, which say that perpetrators should be tried in places where crimes were committed.
7. Improve the witness protection program, taking into account the possible impact that testimony can have on finding the locations of hidden graves with the remains of missing persons.
8. Commence a dialogue on the issue of missing persons between the competent institutions of Belgrade and Prishtina in Brussels, under the auspices of the European Union.
9. Support the establishment of a joint operational team with the task of resolving the issue of missing persons, which would include members of the commissions on missing persons of Kosovo and Serbia.
10. ICMP's presence is to continue after EULEX's mandate, which expires in 2014.
11. Examination of identifications before using DNA.

Skopje, November 2012

JOINT CONCLUSIONS, TODAY

Even if the proposals and demands that Serbian and Albanian families of the missing from each meeting send to the authorities in Belgrade and Prishtina have never received an answer, from each of the joint meetings their appeals and requests still go the way of those from whom the resolution of the issue of missing persons is expected.

1. Representatives of the competent domestic institutions are invited to significantly strengthen the political will, as well as technical and other efforts in resolving the fate of the missing, including mutual cooperation of the participants through the mechanism of the Missing Persons Group.
2. This implies the necessity of opening all its own archives, but also strengthening its professional and technical capacities, in line with the 2018 Joint Declaration on Missing Persons from the London Summit on the Western Balkans and other signed documents.
3. Families jointly call on the Missing Persons Group, and especially the competent domestic institutions, to agree on the publication of the Regional Database of Missing Persons.
4. Families again jointly emphasise that the resolution of the issue of the missing must not be politicized, that the process of finding out the truth takes too long and that they all have an equal right to a faster resolution of the fate of all the missing - their loved ones. Institutions dealing with the issues of the missing have an equal obligation to do everything within their competences, to fulfil these rights of the family.
5. Resolving the fate of the missing must be an indispensable part and one of the priorities of the Brussels dialogue, and families of the missing must be regularly informed about the agreements reached during the Brussels dialogue on the measures to be taken to resolve the fate of the missing.
6. It calls on states that had their contingents within KFOR and other international missions, as well as international organizations that were present on the ground, to enable competent domestic and international institutions access to documents from their archives and information that can help determine the fate of all missing persons.
7. The present members of the association of families of the missing express their readiness, in close coordination with the competent domestic and international institutions, to help solve the problem of unidentified and possible misidentifications. In cases where there is a need for this, in cooperation with institutions, they would communicate with family members from their backgrounds about the importance and need to give their blood samples for the DNA method, as well as other adequate ways of solving this problem.
8. The participants of the discussion noted that they are identical with the common pain and suffering that family members of the missing, of all nationalities, have been going through for years in search of their loved ones. They emphasized the necessity and advantages of joint action and joint messages of Serbian and Albanian associations and families of non-residents that bring families together, especially towards institutions and political actors.
9. The participants agreed in principle and presented a series of ideas on further joint commitment, action and action in order to speed up the process of determining the fate of the missing. In particular, they ask domestic political decision-makers and institutions to fulfil their obligations to quickly find and identify the bodies of the missing, and to inform family members, as well as the public, about all this.

