

Sarajevo, 20 May 2014
174-040/2014

Dear Mr. Odalović,

On behalf of the International Commission on Missing Persons (ICMP) I would like to express my appreciation for our successful cooperation and the significant results achieved in the process of locating and identifying missing persons.

With this letter I would hereby like to inform you that ICMP is ready to continue providing its technical assistance to the Republic of Serbia in this process. In order to facilitate the continuation of the activities and commitments set forth in the relevant legal instruments signed to date between ICMP and the respective authorities of the Republic of Serbia, I would be grateful if you would consider formalizing such continued efforts by means of an exchange of letters to include the following points:

Recognizing the joint efforts and results thus far achieved in locating and identifying persons missing from the armed conflicts on the territory of the former Yugoslavia;

Confirming the utmost importance of using modern scientific methods including DNA-based analysis in the process of exhumation and identification of missing persons;

Noting the following Agreements between the ICMP and the Republic of Serbia:

- Memorandum of Understanding between International Commission on Missing Persons and the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia of 8 November 2001,
- Grant Agreement between the Coordination Centre for Kosovo and Metohia (CC) of the Federal Government and the Government of the Republic of Serbia and the International Commission on Missing Persons (ICMP) concerning ICMP Funding of CC Activities on Exhumation and Identification of the Remains of Persons Missing from Kosovo and Metohia signed on 19 and 23 October 2001, and
- Agreement on Cooperation between the International Commission on Missing Persons (ICMP) and the Commission of the Federal Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia for Humanitarian Issues and Missing Persons concerning the Fate of the Persons Unaccounted For from the Armed Conflicts in the Territories of Former SFRY between 1991 – 1995 signed on 5 and 19 April 2002;

Mr. Veljko Odalović
Head of Commission on Missing Persons of the Government of the Republic of Serbia
Palata Srbije
Bulevar Mihajla Pupina 2
11000 Belgrade
SERBIA

ICMP and the Commission on Missing Persons of the Government of the Republic of Serbia (hereinafter referred to as: the Commission) have agreed to continue their cooperation in the process of exhumation and identification of missing persons. The ICMP and the Commission also agree that the ICMP shall continue providing technical assistance in the process of exhumation and identification of persons who went missing as a consequence of conflict in Autonomous Region of Kosovo and Metohia in accordance with the above said agreements, referring in particular to the following:

1. Assistance provided by the ICMP staff (anthropologists and archaeologists) in exhumation process according to defined requirements:
 - Assistance in the form of exhumation related material and equipment,
 - Reports on ICMP staff activities can be used for identification of human remains and cannot be used for any other purpose without the consent of the ICMP and the Commission;
2. DNA identification of exhumed human remains of missing persons, including:
 - Analysis of bone and blood samples, i.e. profiles submitted to the ICMP following approval of the competent court,
 - Authorised ICMP employees shall be allowed to transfer biological samples in official vehicles to the ICMP reference laboratory;
3. The Commission shall inform ICMP about exhumations in the Republic of Serbia, following the issuance of the exhumation order by the competent court:
 - Allow presence at exhumation location for ICMP monitors,
 - Ensure that all samples of human remains to be analysed in ICMP DNA identification program are collected in accordance with ICMP international, technical and scientific standards and operational procedures;
4. ICMP shall submit DNA reports to the Commission, which shall immediately, upon receipt, forward them to the competent court and experts for identification of human remains. Information on the obtained DNA matches shall be available via ICMP search engine seven days after ICMP has submitted the DNA match reports to the Commission;
5. All other actions and explanations of the forensic processes and DNA testing shall be directly agreed by ICMP experts and experts from the Republic of Serbia. Any consequent formal request shall be submitted through the Commission.

If such proposal is acceptable for the Commission, I propose, without prejudice to the above mentioned Agreements between ICMP and the respective authorities of the Republic of Serbia that this letter and your reply be considered as the Agreement between the Missing Persons Commission of the Government of the Republic of Serbia and the ICMP on continued cooperation in the process of exhumation and identification of missing persons.

Sincerely,


Matthew Holliday
Head of Western Balkans Program



REPUBLIC OF SERBIA
GOVERNMENT

Commission for Missing Persons

Ref. No 018-01-01/2014-01/05

17 June 2014

INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON MISSING PERSONS

Mr Matthew Holliday
Head of Western Balkans Programs

71000 SARAJEVO
Alipašina 45 a

Dear Mr Holliday,

The Commission for Missing Persons of the Government of the Republic of Serbia thanks you for your letter No 174-040/2014 of 20 May 2014, and, along with communicating the expressions of our appreciation, wishes to inform you of the following:

Taking into account the results of the successful cooperation to date in the processes of exhumation and identification of the missing persons, we would like to welcome and acknowledge your readiness to continue with providing technical assistance to the Commission for Missing Persons of the Republic of Serbia Government in the processes relating to the conflict in the territory of the Autonomous Province of Kosovo and Metohija, in accordance with the agreements concluded between the International Commission on Missing Persons and the competent authorities and bodies of the Republic of Serbia.

The Commission confirms that the letter of the International Commission on Missing Persons No 174-040/2014 of 20 May 2014 and this response constitute the agreement between the Commission for Missing Persons of the Government of the Republic of Serbia and the International Commission on Missing Persons on continued cooperation in the process of exhumation and identification of missing persons.

Sincerely,



PRESIDENT OF THE COMMISSION

Veljko Odalović
VELJKO ODALOVIĆ