



THE KOSOVO INSTITUTE OF FORENSIC MEDICINE AND THE EULEX FORENSIC MEDICINE TEAM

**A longstanding partnership for the forensic search
and identification of missing persons**

AUGUST 2025



Around **1,590 persons**, who were reported missing during the period 1st January 1998 - 31st December 2000, as a consequence of the war in Kosovo during 1998-1999, **are still missing**. Their families have the right to know the truth.

The **Institute of Forensic Medicine (IFM)** is the only institution in Kosovo providing forensic services to help clarify the fate and whereabouts of the missing persons related to the Kosovo conflict, as well as the management of unidentified remains.

The **EULEX Forensic Medicine Team (FMT)** has been embedded in the IFM since the beginning of its mandate in 2008, working alongside local counterparts contributing to the general strengthening of forensic capacities and providing assistance, in particular, through **anthropology, archaeology** and **analytical capability**.



IFM and **EULEX FMT**, together with relevant authorities, such as the Kosovo Government Commission on Missing Persons and the Kosovo Police, and international partners, such as the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the International Commission on Missing Persons (ICMP), **remain committed to the search and identification of missing persons.**



A YEAR IN REVIEW

SEPTEMBER 2024 - AUGUST 2025

EFFORTS TOWARDS THE SEARCH FOR MISSING PERSONS

Field Operations (days in the field)

69

Unique Sites

42

Exhumations

13

Site Assessments

21





Site Visits

16





TECHNICAL CHALLENGES OF THE SEARCH PROCESS

-  **Reduced reliable witness/informant sources**
-  **Changes to the landscape and geographical features**
-  **Limited corroboration between available information and aerial imagery**
-  **Limited access to accurate records**



A YEAR IN REVIEW

SEPTEMBER 2024 - AUGUST 2025

EFFORTS TOWARDS IDENTIFICATION OF HUMAN REMAINS

Samples collected for DNA analysis

54

New identifications

40

Missing Persons Identified

23

Reassociations

59





Handovers

35





TECHNICAL CHALLENGES OF THE IDENTIFICATION PROCESS

-  **Poor state of preservation
of remains**
-  **Inexistent or insufficient DNA
reference samples from the
families**
-  **Individuals never reported
missing**
-  **Misidentifications**



WHAT ABOUT THE UNIDENTIFIED REMAINS IN THE MORGUE?

Based on new research into potential cases of misidentifications and presumptive identifications, targeted collection of reference samples was carried out from families who had not provided before or which had insufficient reference samples. In some cases, additional samples from the remains in the morgue were also collected.

SEPTEMBER 2024 - AUGUST 2025

23

SOLVED CASES OF UNIDENTIFIED REMAINS

13

NEW IDENTIFICATIONS

10

REASSOCIATIONS

3

CASES OF MISIDENTIFICATIONS



The families of missing persons can help with the work of IFM by providing reference samples if they have not done so, and by coming forward with information related to the missing person or the event of a disappearance.

Families can also reach out for any clarifications or requests for information.

USEFUL CONTACTS

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