

Building Justice in the Balkans
Bosnia and Herzegovina: Still missing, 20 years on

LETTER-WRITING ACTION

The letter writing action is targeting the Chairman of the Council of Ministers (effectively the PM) of Bosnia & Herzegovina. We are urging the Chairman to establish the fund to support families of the missing and continue with clarifying the fate of those still missing.

Please send appeals shortly before 30 August rather than on the anniversary of the genocide. Alternatively, you can send them to the International Secretariat team for them to post. (c/o Todor Gardos, Balkans Campaigner, Amnesty International Secretariat, 1 Easton Street, London, WC1X 0DW)

TARGETS (MODEL LETTER ON PAGE 2)

Dr. Denis Zvizdić
Chairman of the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina
Trg BiH 1, 71000 Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Salutation: Dear Chairman

Fax: +387 33 282 613

E-mail: kabinet@vm.gov.ba

Web: <http://www.vijeceministara.gov.ba/kontakt/default.aspx?id=1922&langTag=en-US>

Please send copies to:

Ms. Semiha Borovac
Minister for Human Rights and Refugees of Bosnia and Herzegovina
Trg BiH 1, 71000 Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Salutation: Dear Minister

Fax: +387 33 206 140

E-mail: kabmin@mhr.gov.ba and semiha.borovac@mhr.gov.ba

Web: <http://mhr.gov.ba/ministarstvo/ministar/default.aspx?id=1&langTag=bs-BA>

Dr. Denis Zvizdić
Chairman of the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina
Trg BiH 1
71000 Sarajevo
Bosnia and Herzegovina

Dear Chairman,

I am writing to express my concerns about the people still missing from the war, and the suffering their relatives have been facing for two decades.

Twenty years have passed since the genocide in Srebrenica in July 1995 and the end of the war that followed later that year, yet the victims of enforced disappearances have still not been provided with access to truth, justice and reparation.

Over a thousand victims from Srebrenica are still missing, and the fate of more than 8,000 people in the whole of Bosnia and Herzegovina has not been clarified. I urge you to step up efforts to search and identify all victims of enforced disappearances from the war and to provide relatives with access to truth and justice through investigating and prosecuting the crimes in which their family members had perished.

In 2004, eleven years ago, Bosnia and Herzegovina adopted its Law on Missing Persons. It requires the state to establish a fund to support the families of missing persons. To date, the fund has not been set up. I am calling on you to take immediate steps to ensure the Council of Ministers establishes the fund without further delay. The Council of Ministers must provide adequate financial and institutional support to enable the implementation of the fund's activities as prescribed by law. The fund is of crucial importance in guaranteeing the social and economic rights of the families of the missing.

Twenty years is too long to wait for justice. I urge you to provide victims of enforced disappearances, including family members, with access to truth, justice and reparation immediately. I look forward to your response on this important matter.

Sincerely,

CC: Ms. Semiha Borovac, Minister for Human Rights and Refugees of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Trg BiH 1, 71000, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina