



*Stalna misija Bosne i Hercegovine pri Uredu Ujedinjenih naroda u Beču,
OSSE i drugim međunarodnim organizacijama, B E C
Permanent Mission of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the United Nations Office
in Vienna, OSCE and other International Organizations, V I E N N A*

S T A T E M E N T
by Ambassador Tomislav Leko,
Permanent Representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the OSCE,
on behalf of Republic of Croatia, Montenegro, Republic of Serbia and
Bosnia and Herzegovina,
on the occasion of the signing of the “Declaration on the Role of the
State in Addressing the Issue of Persons Missing as a Consequence of
Armed Conflict and Human Rights Abuses”
on the 1015th Meeting of the Permanent Council
Vienna, September 4, 2014

Mr. /Mrs. Chairperson,

On 29 August 2014, at the eve of the International Day of the Disappeared, the presidents of Croatia, Montenegro, Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina have gathered in Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and have signed the “Declaration on the Role of the State in Addressing the Issue of Persons Missing as a Consequence of Armed Conflict and Human Rights Abuses”.

This Declaration sets the standards for more support in the search for the missing from the armed conflicts and human rights abuses and defines the role of the states in accounting for the missing. Some 40.000 people have gone missing from the armed conflicts in the 90s, with over 70% of them have been accounted for. There are about 11.000 people still reported as missing.

The Declaration envisages, inter alia, that the States joining in this Declaration will affirm and declare:

- Commitment to addressing the issue of missing persons and to strengthen domestic capacities to effectively address the problem of missing persons
- Determination to uphold a profound commitment to the right of survivors and families to know the fate and whereabouts of missing persons
- Cooperation between governments and with other relevant international organizations
- Determination to work towards establishing the truth about the circumstances of missing persons
- Assisting and fostering regional and international judicial cooperation in the prosecution of the perpetrators of the crimes, as well as pursuing legislative measures

The Declaration remains open to other to join the Signatory Parties.

We would like to praise the activities of the International Commission on Missing Persons (ICMP) and OSCE, through the role of the Chairperson-in-Office (C-i-O) Special Representative for the Western Balkans, Ambassador Gerard Stoudmann, as well as OSCE field operations in respective countries, for facilitating of this Declaration and contributing to this significant and important instrument of reconciliation among the countries of the region.

I thank you!