

Handover Memorandum

Between

The International Commission on Missing Persons (hereinafter: "ICMP")

And

The Missing Persons Institute of Bosnia and Herzegovina (hereinafter: "MPI")

Concerning

The Expert Group on Exhumations and Examinations of missing persons in Bosnia and Herzegovina (hereinafter: "The Expert Group")

- i. Recalling that the Expert Group was established by the Office of the High Representative in Bosnia and Herzegovina in February 1996 in order to support and coordinate the search, recovery and identification process of missing persons in Bosnia and Herzegovina;
- ii. Noting that the role of the Expert Group has been to set common professional standards in the exhumation process and to facilitate and coordinate the process of searching for missing persons;
- iii. Recalling that ICMP, in 2001, assumed the chairmanship of the Expert Group;
- iv. Considering that Article 4 of the Agreement on Assuming the Role of Co-Founders of the Missing Persons Institute of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the provisions of the Bosnia and Herzegovina Law on Missing Persons, provide for developing national capacities to resolve the missing persons issue;

Solemnly declare:

1. The Expert Group shall herewith transition from ICMP to MPI, which shall also assume its chairmanship.
2. The Expert Group shall continue to include representatives from the State and Entity Prosecutors' Offices, the State Investigation and Protection agency (SIPA) and the Intelligence and Security Agency (OSA), Entity Ministries of Interior and other relevant Ministries, the Mine Action Centre (BHMIC), as well as court appointed forensic specialists as its members. ICMP shall continue to participate in the Expert Group as a member.
3. The Expert Group shall continue to provide coordination of the work of the various institutions active in the missing persons issue in Bosnia and Herzegovina. It shall also work towards the establishment and promotion of joint criteria, standards and methodologies in the exhumations and examinations of mortal remains of missing persons in Bosnia and Herzegovina.
4. The Expert Group shall continue to provide a forum for dialogue between the main stakeholders in the missing persons issue. It shall seek solutions to expedite the search, excavation and identification processes, and shall address practical and ethical issues as they arise.

Sarajevo, 1st September 2009

For ICMP

Sarajevo, 1st September 2009

For MPI