

There were at least 4,500 persons missing at the end of the Kosovo conflict.

4,500



1,600

At least 1,600 are still missing. The process reached a stand-still. How can it be reinvigorated?

ICMP has



Facilitated cooperation between Kosovo and Serbian institutions.



Helped to establish the Kosovo Commission on Missing Persons.



Helped to safeguard rights of families.



Provided online tools to store and share missing persons data.



Supported family associations and other CSOs.



Enabled DNA identifications.

14,924 family reference samples collected by ICMP.

7,355 post-mortem samples processed by ICMP.

Presumptive identifications
Around 2,000 cases identified

ICMP's DNA-led identification process
2,539 cases identified

1998.....2001 2002.....2017

What Methods Were Used to Identify Missing Persons?

Presumptive identifications

- Based on context, family members' recognition of clothing and personal effects
- Lacks scientific criteria
- High possibility of misidentification
- Misidentifications have a knock-on effect on other cases.

ICMP's DNA-led identification

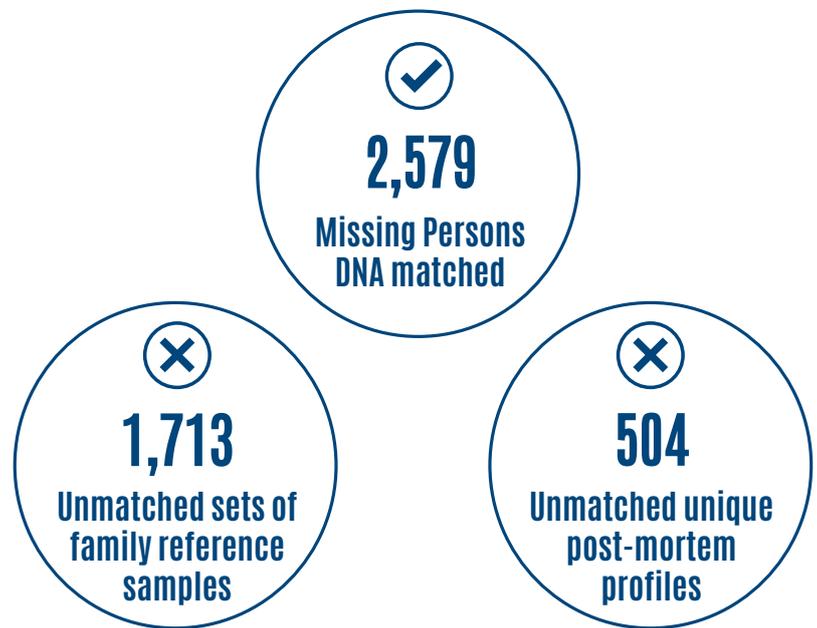
- Based on DNA matching between human remains and family members' DNA
- Scientific approach with 99,95% certainty
- Capacity to extract from old and damaged human remains
- Internationally ISO accredited

DNA-led Identifications Per year



Large numbers of unidentified cases are not uncommon when traditional methods of visual identification are used to identify missing persons.

ICMP has collected reference samples from families of the missing, which represent 1,713 persons still listed as missing- but none of these reference samples match the 504 unique DNA profiles that have been extracted from unidentified bodies from the Kosovo conflict.



What happened?



Approximately 2,000 identifications were made in 1999-2000 on the basis of items of clothing and personal effects found with the human remains: this traditional method increases the risk of error.

What next?



ICMP has proposed that the authorities and families of the missing should consider collecting genetic reference samples from family members whose loved ones were identified without the use of DNA. This could help identify unidentified human remains in the Pristina Mortuary. This in turn would pin-point where mis-identifications occurred before the introduction of the DNA-led process in 2002.