

## KORICANSKE STIJENE

### Factsheet

This factsheet provides up-to-date information about the International Commission on Missing Persons (ICMP) assistance to the Bosnia and Herzegovina (BIH) authorities to recover and identify persons missing from the Koricanske stijene location, in central BIH, since the first excavation at the site in 2003.

ICMP has produced this factsheet in order to ensure that families of the missing, the BIH authorities, and the public are fully informed about ICMP's efforts in the last 15 years to assist in the investigation of the 1992 massacre at Koricanske stijene and to identify the victims.

- As of August 2019, ICMP had provided DNA match reports to the Missing Persons Institute of Bosnia and Herzegovina (MPI), making it possible to reliably identify 181 missing persons at the Koricanske stijene site.
- The International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) established that on 21 August 1992 a large group of civilians from Trnopolje prison camp were transported by Bosnian Serb forces to Bosnian government-controlled territory in Travnik. After the convoy reached Mount Vlasica, about 200 unarmed men were separated from the main group and executed by Bosnian Serb police. Their bodies were then thrown into a ravine at Koricanske stijene. Only 12 men survived the massacre.
- Between 2003 and 2017, the BIH authorities conducted four excavations at the Koricanske stijene location. ICMP provided assistance at three of these excavations, and undertook examination, sampling and DNA testing of victims recovered during all four excavations.
- In the period prior to the 2017 excavations, ICMP had issued positive DNA match reports representing 118 individuals and DNA match reports for 322 re-associations of individual body parts. To date, the competent Prosecutor's Offices and the MPI have been able to positively identify 70 of those 118 missing persons and return them to their families for burial. Families of the other 48 missing persons that ICMP DNA matched, whose relatives' bodies were found incomplete, have made the decision to wait until more remains are found.
- The most recent exhumation, with the assistance of ICMP, was conducted in the period 11-22 September 2017. Over the course of two weeks, 111 cases of human remains were recovered.
- In the period 11 October - 23 November 2017, the court appointed local legal medicine specialist, with ICMP assistance, took 1,242 post-mortem (bone and tooth) samples and submitted these to ICMP for DNA testing.
- ICMP submitted the first DNA match reports related to the 2017 exhumation to the MPI in May 2018. A steady flow of DNA match reports relevant to Koricanske stijene victims has continued since then.
- In total, based on post-mortem samples submitted from all four excavations conducted at the Koricanske stijene site, ICMP had submitted 1136 DNA match reports to the MPI, representing 181 missing persons and 955 re-associations, as of August 2019.
- On July 20, a total of 86 persons were formally identified and buried, of which 81 were from the Korićanske stijene assemblage, and five were from other locations from the Krajina

region. Additionally, four persons from the Korićanske stijene assemblage were formally identified and buried at other locations; one in Kotor Varoš, three in Croatia.

- Initial DNA samples, as well as samples resubmitted following an unsuccessful extraction of DNA profile from initial sample, are currently being processed, and upon completion will lead to:
  - reassociations of body parts with cases that were not buried at the collective burial in 2019;
  - necessary reexhumations and reassociations with cases that have been formally identified and buried in previous years.
- Information on submitted DNA reports is available through ICMP's Online Inquiry Center (<http://bit.ly/2FcKkf2>), where families of the missing can check the status of their relatives' cases in real time.