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DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Office on Missing Persons and Forensics **Statistical Report 2005**

1. The Office on Missing Persons and Forensics was created in 2002 by SRSG Michael Steiner. At the time 5236 persons were reported missing. In three and a half years, OMPF has reduced this number by over %50, by locating and identifying bodies and by systematically auditing the data in the Consolidated List of Missing Persons.

Persons reported missing before creation of OMPF in 2002	5236
Persons currently reported missing (December 2005)	2464
Ethnic Albanian persons currently reported missing	1774
Non-Albanian persons currently reported missing	690

2. Of the roughly 2700 cases closed during the existence of OMPF, 1490 have been closed returning identified human remains to their families. An additional 138 sets of human remains have been identified, but have not been handed over – in these cases, the families have been notified of an identification but have chosen not to accept the remains immediately, usually in order to wait for a group reburial ceremony. OMPF always notifies a family immediately when a body is identified.

Sets of human remains returned to families by OMPF	1490
Sets of human remains returned to families by OMPF in 2005	560
Additional remains identified, waiting for family to accept them	138

3. OMPF was the organization which initiated the process of negotiating the return of identified human remains from mass graves in Serbia. Bodies have been transferred 17 times, with a total of 679 sets of human remains repatriated to Kosovo. The Office manages the return of these bodies and performs a complete forensic inspection on each one.

	transfers	sets of remains
Human remains transferred from Serbia	17	679
Human remains transferred from Serbia in 2005	6	300

4. DNA testing is not performed by OMPF. Samples are sent to the International Commission of Missing (ICMP) Persons in Bosnia, and in almost every case OMPF must wait for a DNA matching result to make an identification. OMPF has sent samples from 2655 complete or partially complete sets of remains, representing a much smaller number of missing persons. As remains may be damaged, separated, or mixed together, one person is sometimes processed as two or more cases. Such cases can only be reassociated with each other after the identification is complete. Multiple DNA samples are sent for each case, and sometimes testing fails and new samples need to be taken. In addition, 328 cases previously autopsied by another international organization have had to be redone by OMPF, and samples have been sent again.

OMPF has received results relating to 1484 cases. Of these, 1368 results have been positive and 116 have been negative. A positive results means that the bone sample can be matched with a blood sample from a family with a person missing. A positive result does not always mean that a new person has been identified. Since the remains of a one person may be separated into many cases, a positive DNA result may only serve to reassociate the case with one already identified. Furthermore, some DNA results are merely duplicates providing no new information.

DNA SENT	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	TOTAL
Number of cases represented by DNA samples sent to ICMP	6	913	661	407	668	2655
Number of reautopsies represented by DNA samples sent to ICMP	0	59	0	33	236	328

DNA RECEIVED	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	TOTAL
Number of cases represented by DNA matching results received from ICMP	0	77	363	376	668	1484
Number of cases for which matching was positive	0	73	312	359	624	1368
Number of cases for which matching was negative	0	4	51	17	44	116
Number of persons identified through DNA (positive results minus reassociations, re-autopsies and duplicates)	0	53	260	293	430	1036

5. Currently, there are 1363 cases without DNA matching results from ICMP – this includes the above difference between samples sent and received, as well as pending results for some re-autopsies. For 94 cases, ICMP has asked for DNA samples to be retaken, but this is impossible due to the state of the remains (i.e. burnt bones, very fragmentary remains, etc.). For another 17 cases, ICMP has asked for new samples and these are waiting to be sent to them. This leaves a total of 1252 cases for which OMPF is awaiting DNA results in order to complete the identification process.

Of these samples, 582 were taken from the left femur. As each human being only has one left femur, it is certain that these samples represent at least that many people. The total number of people from which samples were taken can only be known after identification is complete, because sometimes multiple cases come from the same person. OMPF is therefore awaiting DNA matching results for at least 582

individuals, although this is only an absolute minimum figure and the number of person represented in these samples is probably much higher. The number of individuals for which DNA results are pending is probably around 700.

Cases awaiting DNA results from ICMP	1252
Minimum number of individuals represented by these cases	582
Estimated number of individuals represented by these cases	700

6. OMPF is the only organization in Kosovo mandated to exhume human remains. The Office performs exhumations based on its own investigations, and oversees all exhumation operations performed by the UNMIK Police War Crimes Unit (WCU). Exhumations can yield either complete bodies or incomplete sets of human remains. Other field operations include assessments, in which a forensic archaeologist determines whether anything is buried on site.

	2002	2003	2004	2005	TOTAL
Field operations (all exhumations and assessments)	174	130	81	61	446
Sets of human remains recovered (complete and incomplete bodies)	443	652	176	118	1389

7. The Medical Examiner's Office (MEO) within OMPF is responsible for investigation all non-natural deaths in Kosovo. The forensic doctor both establishes the cause of death and ascertains the manner of death, meaning the circumstances surrounding the incident. The table below also records the regions in which incidents of non-natural death took place. In cases where the body is badly burnt or otherwise destroyed, the sex may not be ascertainable. Some data is not available for clerical reasons or because laboratory analysis is still pending.

MEO AUTOPSIES	2002	2003	2004	2005	TOTAL
Male	17	153	192	176	538
Female	10	45	54	40	149
Unascertained or Data Unavailable	1	6	0	3	10
TOTAL	28	204	246	219	697

Homicide	15	92	123	89	319
Suicide	0	19	36	30	85
Accidental	2	33	29	56	120
Natural	8	34	34	37	113
Unascertained or Data Unavailable	3	26	24	7	45
TOTAL	28	204	246	219	697

Gjilan	2	32	31	39	104
Mitrovica	3	30	31	17	81
Peja	3	52	40	31	126
Pristina	15	70	96	86	267
Prizren	5	18	38	43	104
Data Unavailable	0	2	10	3	15
TOTAL	28	204	246	219	697

8. The MEO is also responsible for providing medico legal information regarding other cases of violence. These examinations are primarily related to sexual assault. The category "body injuries" includes both common assault and domestic violence. The last table records the regions in which incidents of violence took place, but some data is unavailable for clerical reasons.

MEO PHYSICAL EXAMS	2002	2003	2004	2005	TOTAL
Male	3	17	25	23	68
Female	5	70	75	78	228
TOTAL	8	87	100	101	296

Sexual Assaults Victims	5	69	64	77	215
Sexual Assaults Perpetrators	1	12	14	14	41
Abortion	0	3	5	2	10
Body Injuries	0	1	5	8	14
Domestic Violence	2	2	3	0	7
Biological Sampling	0	0	6	0	6
Data Unavailable	0	0	3	0	3
TOTAL	8	87	100	101	296

Gjilan	0	10	6	14	30
Mitrovica	2	14	13	22	51
Peja	0	7	7	8	22
Pristina	6	42	58	51	157
Prizren	0	12	13	6	31
Data Unavailable	0	2	3	0	5
TOTAL	8	87	100	101	296

9. A key priority of OMPF is to build the capacity of local staff to carry out forensic activities after the end of the mission. In addition to regular oversight and instruction by international experts, the Medical Examiners Office has conducted several successful trainings this year:

- Forensic Examination of Sexual Assault Victims: 6 weeks theoretical and practical. 20 doctors and nurses from various regions of Kosovo were trained

in order to standardize the treatment of sexual assault victims. Whereas certified examinations were centralized at the MEO in Pristina, there will now be more widely available.

- Death Investigator Training: 6 weeks theoretical and practical. This course certified persons to act as first responders at the crime scene, securing the body, collecting evidence and preparing a report. OMPF employed 2 death investigators from this course.
- Histology Training: 3 theoretical and practical sessions of 2 weeks each. Training on the sampling and analysis of organs for use in forensic analysis. Existing MEO staff are being trained in this regard.
- Toxicology Training: ongoing. Training on the sampling and analysis of bodily fluids for use in forensic analysis. Existing MEO staff are being trained in this regard.
- Postgraduate Diploma in Forensic Medicine: [in process] 6 weeks theoretical and 43 weeks practical. This comprehensive training for forensic doctors is being conducted through the University of Coimbra in Portugal, and will include autopsy procedure, examination of assault victims, anthropology, genetics, and medical ethics. OMPF will hire 3 doctors from the successful trainees.

10. A successful new initiative of OMPF has been “the Memory Project,” an effort to recognize and record the experiences of the families of the missing. As a transitional justice effort, the memory project tries to show how experiences of loss are common to all ethnic groups. Three components of the memory project have been implemented:

- The first phase of the Memory Project Interactive Theatre Initiative was a series of discussion workshops held in schools. A multi-ethnic team of writers created a play about the experiences of a family with a missing person, and it was used as the focus of discussion and education about the issue. The programme visited 16 Albanian high schools and 4 Serbian schools.
- The second phase of the Interactive Theatre Initiative was a series of discussion forums for the families of the missing. Short dramatic scenes were presented to encourage persons to share their personal experiences and opinions. The programme visited 12 Albanian communities and 4 Serbian communities.
- The Oral Histories Initiative is an ongoing effort to compile a collection of videotaped interviews with the families of the missing or formerly missing. The interview archive will be made publicly available and organized with a searchable database. More than 50 Albanians, 10 Serbs and 1 Roma have given interviews.