

# FACT SHEET

## (WHERE)

Kosovo

## (HOW LONG)

January 2020 - June 2021

## 'MOBILIZING MEDIA AND CSOs TO SUPPORT THE RIGHT TO INFORMATION REGARDING MISSING PERSONS IN KOSOVO'

The Action tackles the issue of missing persons by increasing awareness through a combination of research for the production of new data and information, utilization of existing comprehensive databases on missing persons, production of editorial content and use of multimedia tools. The ultimate goal of the Action is to enhance access to information on the issue of missing persons by putting families of the missing at the forefront of the discussion, by advocating for the implementation of the Law on Missing Persons, by lobbying for the improvement of the search for missing persons, and most importantly, by encouraging an informed discussion on the issue among citizens.

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## SUMMARY

In the 20th anniversary of the Kosovo War, we are still faced with questions regarding the legacy of the war. Consider the issue of the missing persons' case, which is one of the central problems of the Human Rights section. During the period of January 1998 to December 2000, many people went missing, and in the time since more than 1600 families still do not have any closure in this aspect. This action provides innovative ways to tackle this issue, by increasing awareness and using technology to complement traditional methods of discussion. The action aims to provide support to missing persons' families, advocate for the implementation of the Law on Missing Persons, lobby for the improvement of the search for missing persons, and use innovative ways to instill the discussion on the issue of missing persons to the general agenda. The action intends to improve the situation of the families of missing persons by propelling the search for missing persons through advocating to the relevant institutions, and by increasing societal involvement and awareness on the issue. The action embodies a wide variety of diverse target groups, who until now were only tackled as standalone, in an overarching goal. The main feature of the activities will be to use story sharing from the families of missing persons combined with evidence-driven and investigative journalism. Institutional stakeholders are engaged in the project and approached through a cooperative lens. Our modalities include putting more societal pressure on the institutions through podcasts, journalistic articles and monographs, and using our organizations' network to put them in the spotlight.

## MAIN OBJECTIVE

To strengthen a larger mobilization of media organizations and CSOs in improving the fate of missing persons in Kosovo and the understanding and participation of the public in the same.

#### SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

- To improve the legal and policy response to the issues of missing person (through targeted, informed and evidenced recommendation/reporting/advocacy to relevant stakeholders)
- To promote community/public understanding and civic engagement of the fate of missing persons (through impartial investigation and public communications of different forms (art, media, etc.) and special focus on youth)
- To support families and victims in coping with the burden of the past (memorialising , testimonial, media coverage)

#### MAIN ACTIVITIES

- Exhibition on missing persons
- Oral history testimonial collection and publication
- Podcasts
- Video Explainers
- Discussions
- Monograph on Missing Persons
- Volume Up: One-on-one Interview and Masterclass
- Documentary production
- Advocacy actions
- Report

#### TARGET GROUPS

Members of families of missing persons, so as to put them at the forefront of the discussion about the issue of missing persons and to advocate for the fulfillment of their right to information. Targeting this group is crucial because their right to information has been violated for more than two decades since the end of the war.

Media outlets and CSOs, so that they are better equipped with skills and tools leading to a greater understanding of issues related to missing persons, which will later result in greater capacities of the aforementioned to inform the public at large about these issues.

Young aspiring journalists, so that they can hone their skills for reporting sensitive issues with a direct focus on missing persons by undergoing a capacity building program which includes a talk and masterclass by an international expert of missing persons' issues.

Local institutions (i.e. Government Commission on Missing Persons), through advocacy and through the dissemination of information via our communication channels, so as to address the legal gaps and to provide a more sustainable approach towards the issue of missing persons. This group comprises the people who have the capacity to make a change regarding how the issue of missing persons is addressed.

Experts of issues related to missing persons, to gain insight for the report, journalistic content and multimedia content.

International Commission on Missing Persons, so as to collaborate with them in our advocacy actions to help speed up the discovery, recovery and identification of human remains linked to the search for people who went missing in connection with the war in Kosovo, and to address the needs of their families.

Public at large (youth, local professionals, researchers), so as to foster communities that can make well-informed decisions about their future civic activities in regard to the fate of the missing. The perception of the public is crucial to instilling more responsibility and healthy pressure on policymakers, so that they follow up on their statements and implement the Law on Missing Persons.

MAIN IMPLEMENTER

KOSOVO 2.0

PARTNERS

Humanitarian Law Center Kosovo

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