

challenge

In societies confronting political transition or post-conflict reconciliation and rebuilding, uncertainty about the fate of missing persons often obstructs peace processes, the full implementation of the rule of law and weakens confidence in democratic and political institutions. Resolving the fate of missing persons is a crucial political concern that is integral to the development of effective, accountable and just institutions.

mandate

ICMP endeavors to secure the co-operation of governments and other authorities in locating and identifying persons missing as a result of armed conflicts, other hostilities or violations of human rights and to assist them in doing so. ICMP also supports the work of other organizations in their efforts, encourages public involvement in its activities and contributes to the development of appropriate expressions of commemoration and tribute to the missing.

worldwide

Currently based in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, ICMP is engaged in the Western Balkans, the Middle East, Latin America and Southeast Asia. In addition to the assistance that ICMP provides to governments in addressing the issue, of persons missing as a result of violations of human rights, ICMP also provides assistance in disaster response cases. It has been recently engaged in the Philippines following Typhoon Frank, as well as in the tsunami-affected regions of South Asia and the U.S. State of Louisiana following Hurricane Katrina.

technical assistance

ICMP provides governments with technical assistance in locating and identifying missing persons, including the use of high - throughput capacity DNA analysis and forensic support in the fields of archeology and anthropology. ICMP technical assistance is provided on the basis of agreements that ICMP concludes with host governments or organizations that may seek ICMP's support. ICMP's success in developing an integrated scientific approach to addressing the problem of missing persons has made it a leader in advancing forensic sciences in the service of truth and justice. ICMP has made over 18,000 DNA assisted identifications since November 2001.

capacity building

ICMP assists governments in meeting their legal obligations regarding missing persons and contributes to building institutional capacity. ICMP contributes to transitional justice, provides legislative support, and enhances the capacity of specialized ad hoc bodies, as well as justice sector institutions, including prosecutors, judges, police, and forensic specialists. ICMP also supports the development of networks of civil society organizations which advocate for truth, justice, and the rights of family members of missing persons.

assistance to courts

ICMP responds to requests for documentation and expert reports from international and domestic courts on matters related to war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide and other crimes under international law, in line with data protection and other safeguards under ICMP policy.

history

ICMP was established at the initiative of U.S. President Clinton in 1996 following the G-7 summit in Lyon, France. ICMP was originally chaired by former U.S. Secretary of State, Cyrus Vance, who was succeeded by U.S. Senator Bob Dole. ICMP's current Chair is Thomas Miller.

commissioners

Thomas Miller, Chair, President of the International Executive Service Corps
Willem Kok, former Prime Minister of the Netherlands
Her Majesty Queen Noor
Rt. Hon. Michael Portillo, former Defense Secretary of United Kingdom
Ambassador Rolf Ekéus, former OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities
Ambassador Carolina Barco, Ambassador of Colombia to the United States
James V. Kimsey, Chairman Emeritus, President of the Kimsey Foundation

funding

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