FACTSHEET:
BIH, MISSING PERSONS FROM THE ARMED CONFLICTS OF THE 1990S: A STOCKTAKEING

The Stocktaking report reviews:
- Wartime efforts to account for the missing, including the work of the various commissions established to exchange prisoners and remains of the deceased;
- Post-war efforts to identify bodies using conventional methods;
- The domestic legal and institutional framework, including the enactment of the BIH Law on Missing Persons in October 2004 and the establishment of the BIH Missing Persons Institute in August 2005; and
- The scientific process, which witnessed an exponential rise in identifications after 2001 with the introduction of ICMP’s data management system.

The report also provides detailed information on the location and identification of the missing in nine geographical regions – Bosnian Krajina, Lower Podrinje, Upper Podrinje, Herzegovina, the Sarajevo Region, Posavina, Central Bosnia, Northeastern Bosnia, and Western Bosnia.

Approximately 70 percent of persons reported missing in BIH as a consequence of the war have been accounted for. No other post-conflict country has achieved such a high rate of resolving cases of missing persons.

To date, as many as 23,000 missing persons out of an estimated 31,500 reported missing as a consequence of the war in BIH have been identified.

- The remains of 8,192 individuals were identified using traditional means;
- Since 2001, 14,792 individuals have been identified using DNA;
- Approximately 3,500 unidentified mortal remains stored in 12 mortuaries in BIH represent at least 2,653 different individuals;
- Up to 8,000 individuals are still unaccounted for – and that means that the work of the ICMP and its partner agencies in this country is far from over.

The majority of those missing from the conflict in BIH are men – 83 percent – leaving women and children to struggle to assert their rights.

Analysis of the Central Records on Missing Persons shows no significant difference in the identification rate of individuals reported by F Bosnian (74.83 percent) and the RS (72.18 percent).

A survey conducted on behalf of ICMP found that:
- 96 percent of respondents believe the search for the missing should not be conducted on the basis of nationality or religion;
- 87 percent believe that joint memorials and days of commemoration should be dedicated to all missing persons;
- 80 percent believe that resolving the fate of the missing contributes to reconciliation;
- 82 percent believe that accounting for two thirds of all the missing is an important achievement, though almost 60 percent said that success would only be achieved when every missing person is accounted for.