

**JUSTICE FOR  
THE DANA  
FAMILY**

**AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL**



**KOSOVO 2009  
A DECADE  
OF IMPUNITY**

# JUSTICE FOR THE DANA FAMILY

The Kosovo-Albanian Dana family remained in their house in Gjakovë (Đjakovica) throughout the armed conflict in Kosovo between March and June 1999. On 7 May 1999 they heard shooting in another part of town, but were too scared to go outside. Over the following two days they continued to hear gunfire, which intensified. On 10 May, a group of Serbian police officers knocked on the door of their home. When one of the men went to open the door, four police officers forced their way into the house.

The family were ordered to go out into the garden, where the men were separated from the women and children. The men were then made to go out onto the street; the police punched and slapped them as they did so. Six men from the family – Afrim Dana, Albert Dana, Gëzim Dana, Luan Dana, Labinot Dana and Kastriot Dana – were then forcibly taken away by the police officers. They were never seen alive again.



Their bodies were exhumed in Batajnica in Serbia. The body of Afrim Dana was returned to the family on 15 January 2005. The other five bodies were returned on 25 August 2005.

In 2009, the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia concluded that a large-scale cover-up operation by the Serbian authorities had taken place. In April and May 1999, the bodies of ethnic Albanians killed and buried in Kosovo by the Serbian forces were exhumed by employees of the Serbian Ministry of Interior and transported to Serbia. In total, the remains of at least 900 individuals who were killed in Kosovo have since been exhumed in Serbia from mass or individual graves, including from Batajnica.

Although an investigation into the enforced disappearance of the Dana family was opened by the UN Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK), the perpetrators have not been brought to justice.

*Images above (from left to right): Afrim Dana, Albert Dana, Gëzim Dana*

# TAKE ACTION

The Serbian authorities have the responsibility to investigate the enforced disappearances in 1999 of ethnic Albanians and others by Serbian police and paramilitary forces and to bring those responsible to justice.

## WRITE TO VLADIMIR VUKČEVIĆ, THE WAR CRIMES PROSECUTOR IN SERBIA

- Urge the Prosecutor to open an investigation into the enforced disappearance and killing of members of the Dana family and ensure that the perpetrators are brought to justice.
- Provide the details of the case as given on this card, adding that an investigation had previously been opened by UNMIK.
- Ask that the families of the six men are kept informed of any developments in this case at all stages of the investigation.
- Ask for full co-operation and exchange of information with the European Union-led Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX), which has been responsible for investigating and prosecuting war crimes in Kosovo since December 2008.

### Send appeals to:

War Crimes Prosecutor  
Vladimir Vukčević  
Office of the War Crimes Prosecutor  
Belgrade District Court  
Ustanička 29  
11000 Beograd  
Republic of Serbia  
Fax: +381 11 3082 782  
Email: kabinet@tuzilastvorz.org.rs  
Salutation: Dear Mr Vukčević

### Send copies to:

Head of EULEX Justice Component  
Alberto Perduca  
EULEX Kosovo Justice Building  
Str. Lidhja e Prizrenit no.9  
P.O. Box 268  
1000 Pristina  
Kosovo  
Fax: +381 38 2030 555  
Email: alberto.perduca@eulex-kosovo.eu

