

JUSTICE FOR DAKA ASANI

AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL



KOSOVO 2009
A DECADE
OF IMPUNITY

JUSTICE FOR DAKA ASANI

On 1 August 1999, after the war in Kosovo had ended, Daka Asani (also known as Asanović), a Romani man, went with his son, Nežmolin, to the market in Uroševac (Ferizaj) where he lived. He wanted to stay at the market and look around. Nežmolin went home, and has not seen his father since. According to a market stallholder, Daka Asani was taken away in a car by an unidentified man. After two days his family were very worried and his wife approached KFOR (the NATO-led force in Kosovo) and asked them for help. They were unable to assist her.

On 19 August 1999, the family asked the International Committee of the Red Cross in Kosovo to trace Daka Asani. In 2000 the family left Kosovo and went to live in Duisburg in Germany along with other Roma refugees.

In December 2006 the family received a letter from the UN Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) Office of Missing Persons and Forensics. They were informed that Daka Asani's body had been identified on the basis of DNA samples from the family. The death certificate stated that he died as a result of "multiple gunshot wounds to the head and trunk".

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Daka Asani's body was returned later that month to his brother in Serbia. The rest of the family, who were living in Germany, could not attend the funeral, as they were unable to go to Serbia without losing their right to remain in Germany.

In June and August 2007, another of Daka Asani's sons, Skender Asani, wrote to the Kosovo Police Service, asking them if a criminal investigation had been opened into his father's murder. He has not received a reply. Amnesty International also sent a letter to UNMIK Department of Justice, asking the same question and providing information about the case. The Department of Justice informed Amnesty International that they had never received a criminal report about Daka Asani's murder.

Although Daka Asani was last seen in Uroševac, his body was exhumed from the Dragodan cemetery in Pristina more than 30 km away. His was one among 176 mortal remains of Albanians, Serbs and Roma exhumed from the cemetery in 2000 by investigators working for the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia. The reason why his body was found in Pristina has never been discovered by his family. His killer has not been brought to justice.

TAKE ACTION

In December 2008 the European Union-led Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX) took over responsibility from UNMIK for the investigation and prosecution of war crimes and other serious crimes. This included cases of enforced disappearances and abductions.

WRITE TO ALBERTO PERDUCA, HEAD OF THE JUSTICE COMPONENT AT EULEX.

- Ask EULEX to open an investigation into the abduction and killing of a Romani man, Daka Asani (also known as Asanović) who was abducted in August 1999 in Uroševac (Ferizaj).
- Provide the details of the case given on this card.
- Call on EULEX to bring those responsible to justice.
- Ask for Daka Asani's family to be regularly informed about the investigation.

Send appeals 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
Salutation: Dear Mr Perduca

Send copies to:

Head of EULEX Police
Rainer Kuehn
EULEX Police MHQ, 5th floor
Police Avenue
P.O. Box 268
1000 Pristina
Kosovo
Fax: +381 38 222 010 6333
Email: rainer.kuehn@eulex-kosovo.eu

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