JUSTICE FOR THE KUMNOVA FAMILY AND FRIENDS

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KOSOVO 2009 A DECADE OF IMPUNITY

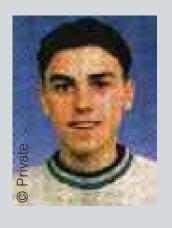
JUSTICE FOR THE KUMNOVA FAMILY AND FRIENDS

During the armed conflict in Kosovo in 1999, the Kumnova family provided shelter for relatives and friends from other parts of the city of Gjakovë (Đjakovica) where they lived. They were all ethnic Albanians from Kosovo.

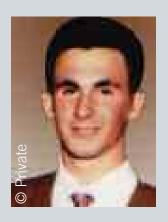
On 31 March, Serbian police arrived at the Kumnova house. When they heard the police coming, the men – Albion Kumnova (22), Artan Efendia (23), Gëzim Deva (29), Lutfi Bunjaku (47), and Bekim Bunjaku (16) – ran to a neighbour's yard to hide, fearing they would be arrested or killed. A neighbour, Shkëlzen Binishi (33) was also hiding there. They were spotted, and 10 police officers entered the yard, arrested them and forcibly took them away. They were never seen alive again.

The bodies of five of the men were exhumed near Bajna Bašta in Serbia in September 2001, and were returned to their families on 29 September 2005 and on 20 September

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2006. Albion Kumnova's body was never found. He is still listed as missing by the International Committee of the Red Cross.

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 at Bajna Bašta.

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

Images (from left to right): Bekim Bunjaku, Lutfi Bunjaku, Albion Kumnova

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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 investigate the enforced disappearance of members of the Kumnova, Efendia, Deva, Bunjaku and Binishi families and ensure that the perpetrators are brought to justice.
- Provide the details of the case given on this card, adding that an investigation had previously been opened by UNMIK.
- Ask the Prosecutor to ensure their families are kept informed of any developments in this case.
- 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





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