

**JUSTICE FOR  
PETRIJA  
PILJEVIĆ**

**AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL**



**KOSOVO 2009  
A DECADE  
OF IMPUNITY**

# JUSTICE FOR PETRIJA PILJEVIĆ

After the war ended in Kosovo in early June 1999, the majority of Kosovo Serbs left, but some like Petrija Piljević, stayed on. In the afternoon of 28 June 1999, according to her neighbours, three men wearing Kosovo Liberation Army uniforms took Petrija Piljević (aged 57) from her flat in Pristina. She was crying and screaming. She was not seen alive again.

Her sons subsequently fled to Serbia where they live today.

In August 2001, Petrija Piljević's son, Dragan Piljević, was shown a selection of photographs by the International Committee of the Red Cross, which showed clothing taken from bodies exhumed by the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia. In one photograph, he recognized his mother's blue tracksuit bottoms, navy socks, cream blouse and black jacket. Following this identification, Petrija Piljević's body was returned to her family at the end of August 2001. They buried her in Prokuplje in southern Serbia.

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In 2003, in response to letters from Amnesty International members, the UN Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) stated:

*“The UNMIK Police has an open investigation into the murder of Mrs Piljević. A post-mortem examination has been conducted and the cause of death was determined to be the result of a gunshot wound. UNMIK police have identified potential eye-witnesses with respect to this case, who are resident in Serbia. As a result of the establishment of police cooperation between UNMIK and the Serbian Police, UNMIK has recently forwarded a request to the Serbian authorities to make arrangements for UNMIK Police to interview these witnesses.”*

Dragan Piljević told Amnesty International in January 2009 that he was interviewed in 2003 by an UNMIK investigator who visited him at his home in Serbia. He has not heard from UNMIK or the Serbian police since. No one has been brought to justice for the abduction and murder of Petrija Piljević.

# 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 inform you about progress since 2003 in the criminal investigation into the abduction and killing of Petrija Piljević.
- Provide the details of the case given on this card.
- Call on EULEX to bring those responsible to justice.
- Ask for Petrija Piljević's family to be regularly informed about the progress of 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](mailto: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](mailto:rainer.kuehn@eulex-kosovo.eu)

