



Ref.: 2015-COS-0844

Ms. Igballe Rogova  
Executive Director  
Kosovo Women's Network  
Pristina

Pristina, 4 September 2015

Dear Ms. Rogova,

I thank you for your open letter dated 27 August 2015, in relation to EULEX's involvement in the recent exhumation conducted at the cemetery in Krushë e Vogël/Velika Kruša.

First of all, I would like to renew our sincere condolences to the families of the victims killed or disappeared during the massacre in Krushë e Vogël/Velika Kruša. Rest assured that EULEX remains strongly committed to fulfil its mandate, in full compliance with UN Security Council Resolution 1325, in contributing to Kosovo's search for the Missing and to investigate, prosecute and adjudicate war crime cases.

It must remain the objective of the Department for Forensic Medicine (DFM) as the competent authority to clarify the fate of the Missing. I sincerely regret any distress that may have been caused by the sequence of events. I count on your understanding that the important work conducted by DFM entails at times operations which we understand can be particularly hard for the families of the Missing, but are nevertheless necessary to bring final clarity.

I can assure you that it has always been a particular concern for DFM, and its' EULEX staff, to keep the families informed of each step undertaken, in particular when an identification has been achieved or when a re-exhumation needs to be conducted. It is their ambition to meet families, family associations and other persons involved in the issue or who could help solve cases of missing persons.

I am informed by the DFM that in this particular case, after additional DNA analysis, there is strong evidence that the remains of other individuals might be buried in the graves. I also understand that outreach to the families has been conducted, including by the Director of the DFM Arsim Gerxhaliu.

Having said this, I have instructed my staff to discuss within the DFM your legitimate concerns and see how best to reach out to the families once again.

I thank for your understanding in this sensitive matter and I kindly ask for your support to reach out and explain the above to the families concerned.

Yours sincerely,

  
Gabriele Meucci  
Head of Mission  
EULEX Kosovo