

# ICRC Belgrade Regional Delegation

Issue #3, 2020

## Missing persons in the Balkans

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- In the framework of the EU-chaired Belgrade–Pristina dialogue in Brussels, the ICRC was invited in the capacity of the Chair of the Working Group (WG) on the Missing in relation to the Events in Kosovo to present the role and achievements of the WG. The Special Representative stated that the EU supports the important work of the WG chaired by the ICRC and recognizes the mechanism as playing the leading role in solving the issue of the Missing persons in this context
- Following the meeting in Brussels, ICRC Chairman to the WG met with the Head of the Commission of the Missing Persons of Republic of Serbia and Head of Belgrade Delegation to the WG for the follow up on the meeting and hand over of the equipment donated by UNMIK in order to strengthen technical capacities and working conditions of the WG delegations of Belgrade and Pristina.



*ICRC Chair to the Working Group and Head of the Commission of the Missing Persons of Serbia*

## Support to Red Cross societies, penitentiaries and authorities

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- Since the outbreak of COVID-19, the ICRC Belgrade has been in close contact with the Red Cross societies in the region to provide support, advice and training to staff and volunteers considering their important role in the national response to COVID-19. As part of its support to the activities in response to COVID-19, the ICRC has made CHF 300,000 available to eight Red Cross societies and authorities in the region.
- Part of this assistance relates to supporting the Belgrade Forensic Institute with personal protection equipment related to their COVID-19 workload, as well as financially supporting the Zagreb Forensic Institute in mitigation of the damage to their DNA lab inflicted during the recent earthquake that hit the Croatian capital. The functioning laboratory of Zagreb Forensic Institute is crucial to the identification process related to the Missing file in Croatia and the ICRC responded by providing funds for the rehabilitation of the laboratory.

- Up to now the ICRC has mobilized its resources to support the activities of the Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia for the urgent humanitarian support for the operations for the most vulnerable population affected by COVID-19 including migrant population moving through the country.



*Red Cross of the Republic of North Macedonia provides assistance to the most vulnerable*

- The ICRC donated funds to the Croatian Red Cross essential for personal protective equipment and hygiene supplies for their assistance programme to the elderly and socially disabled. The equipment donated included protective masks, gloves and disinfectants to senior citizens who live alone or in pairs, with low incomes and without family support, which will contribute to risk reduction of the infection and protection of this most at-risk groups in the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ICRC responded to the request of the Romanian Red Cross for bridge-funding support for their already established program *Help for Siri-Lankans* to ensure needed food assistance for 87 beneficiaries through local RC Vrancea branch.



*Croatian Red Cross provides assistance to the elderly*



*Romanian Red Cross supports migrant population with food items*

