

Source of information: International Commission on Missing Persons (ICMP)

## Mass grave Tomašica

According to information provided to ICMP in 2006, this site was believed to have originally contained 100 to 200 individuals who died on or around 20 July 1992 in the Brdo area. There was further information that people who died at the Keraterm Camp around 24 July 1992 were also buried at the site (ICMP 2007). Information provided to ICMP in 2013 by investigators from the Missing Persons Institute (MPI) indicated that as many as 800 to 900 bodies may have been brought to the site between May and July 1992 from villages north of Prijedor over a one-week period, and that the grave was disturbed in the first two weeks of July 1993, with remains being removed and taken to the Jakarina Kosa open cast mine, a secondary grave.

Tomasica site had been investigated prior to 2013. Under the auspices of the ICTY in 2002, the area of the mine complex was trenched in the search for graves, based on information provided by witnesses (ICTY 2002). On 18 April 2002, one of the trenches was excavated at the location but appears not to have been deep enough to reach the grave or identify any related features or human remains that were revealed in 2004, 2006 and 2013.

Between 14 July and 30 July 2004, further excavations were undertaken at the same location. An area of around 60 by 15 meters was excavated, to a depth of up to 5 meters. A total of 117 cases were recovered, with a minimum number of individuals (MNI) of 23 determined to be present as assessed by anthropological examination. Some remains were mummified, with extensive preservation of soft tissue (ICMP 2007). Clothing and personal effects were found with some cases. Bodies as well as many body parts were recovered, with trauma visible on some remains. It was assessed that most of the remains had been removed after initial burial, and many isolated body parts were found during exhumation (ICMP 2004). Towards the end of the excavations, a series of heavy rain storms flooded the grave. The bottom of the grave had not been completely cleared and there was a possibility that cases remained under the water. On 24 August and 2 September 2004 two additional bodies were exhumed (ICMP 2007).

Between 14 and 30 June 2006, excavation continued at the same location to determine if there were more remains to be recovered from the site. Two bodies and eight body parts were recovered during the re-excavation of the site that had been excavated in 2004. A majority of the cases appear to be adult individuals with associated clothing. Further test trenches and a drainage trench were dug to the northwest of the excavation, to 3.5 meters in depth, but did not go deep enough to find the remaining grave structures revealed in 2013 (ICMP 2007).

The 2004 and 2006 excavations resulted in all remains being taken for examination to the Sejkovaca Mortuary in Sanski Most, where the work of the Krajina Identification Project (KIP) is carried out. After autopsy, anthropological examination and sampling, the subsequent DNA matching results revealed 68 profiles among the remains sampled.

Additional witness information and discussion between the MPI and ICMP in 2012, and the MPI and the State Prosecutor's Office in 2013 suggested there might be further remains and grave features at the Tomasica site. Deep trenching carried out by MPI and Prosecutor's Office personnel on 4 and 5 September 2013 revealed further remains immediately to the west of the 2004-6 excavations. ICMP was asked to assist on 6 September 2013.

In 2013, a total of 401 cases of human remains consisting of 275 complete bodies, 102 body parts and 24 general bags of remains were recovered from the grave and surrounding area.

### DNA statistics

Report category	Value
Total number of DNA reports	545
Number of DNA reports for different individuals	290
Number of reassociation DNA reports	255

### Please note

Over the years, the exhumation process of victims in Bosnia and Herzegovina has involved various domestic institutions and international organizations, including the former Entity-level commissions for missing persons, the ICTY, OHR, PHR, and ICMP. The information presented here is compiled from ICMP's technical assistance in the field and in mortuary settings, combined with data available from other sources. For some excavations, ICMP was not in a position to obtain information.