

Catherine Ashton

High Representative of the Union for
Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
Vice President of the European Commission

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**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



European Institutions Office

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THE EU SHOULD FACILITATE A HUMAN RIGHTS AGREEMENT BETWEEN SERBIA AND KOSOVO

Dear Baroness Ashton,

Following the start of negotiations between Serbia and the European Commission on 21 January 2014 on European Union (EU) membership, Amnesty International is calling for your support of a human rights agreement between Serbia and Kosovo.

A human rights agreement would build on the political agreement reached between Serbia and Kosovo in April 2013 which was facilitated by you as the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy.

Amnesty International is therefore calling on you to facilitate top-level negotiations on a human rights agreement between Serbia and Kosovo, to resolve outstanding human rights violations and abuses on both sides.

Priority must be given to finding answers on the fate of more than 1,700 people who remain missing almost 15 years after the end of the armed conflict, and bringing the perpetrators to justice. Efforts must be made on both sides in order to find the bodies, both of Albanians disappeared by Serb forces, and the bodies of Serbs, Roma, and members of other ethnic communities who were abducted by the Kosovo Liberation Army.

Attempts on both sides to identify and locate the remaining burial sites and mass graves has significantly slowed in recent years. Amnesty International believes that high level negotiations involving the Prime Ministers of both Serbia and Kosovo are the only way forward.

Both the Prime Minister of Serbia and of Kosovo should call on former military, paramilitary and police commanders to make information on the location of remaining burial sites and mass graves available to the relevant bodies including the International Commission of the Red Cross and the commissions for missing persons in both Serbia and Kosovo.

The next stage of any talks would be to address impunity to bring the perpetrators of these crimes to justice under international law, and reparation (including compensation) to the relatives of those missing.

We look forward to your response and stand ready to provide any further information you may require.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Nicolas Beger

Cc:

Suvi Seppäläinen, Advisor to the High Representative on Human Rights
Christophe Parisot, Advisor to the High Representative on Human Rights
Stavros Lambrinidis, EU Special Representative for Human Rights