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An organization formed by the ICRC <sup>[1]</sup> to collect all the information it can obtain through official or private channels respecting prisoners of war <sup>[2]</sup> and protected civilian persons <sup>[3]</sup>, particularly those subject to internment <sup>[4]</sup>, and to transmit it to their country of origin or of residence or to the Power on which they depend, except where such transmission might be detrimental to the persons whom the information concerns or to their relatives.

See [Missing persons](#) <sup>[5]</sup>;

## OUTLINE

[Chapter 7, Provisions on the Dead and Missing](#) <sup>[6]</sup>

[Chapter 15, e\) Restoring family links](#) <sup>[7]</sup>

[Chapter 15, e\) tracing service](#) <sup>[8]</sup>

[Chapter 15, c\) the Central Tracing Agency](#) <sup>[9]</sup>

## LEGALE SOURCE

GCI, 16/2 <sup>[10]</sup> (see ICRC updated Commentary <sup>[11]</sup>)

GCIII, 123 <sup>[12]</sup>

GCIV, 140 <sup>[13]</sup>

PI, 33/3 <sup>[14]</sup>

## DOCUMENT

ICRC, Tracing Service <sup>[15]</sup>

## CASES

Iran/Iraq, 70,000 Prisoners of War Repatriated <sup>[16]</sup>

Bosnia and Herzegovina, Release of Prisoners of War and Tracing of Missing Persons After the End of Hostilities <sup>[17]</sup>

UN, Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances: Report on Mission to Serbia, including Kosovo <sup>[18]</sup>

## BIBLIOGRAPHIC RESOURCES

DJUROVIC Gradimir, *The central tracing agency of the International Committee of the Red Cross: Activities of the ICRC for the alleviation of the mental suffering of war victims*, Geneva, ICRC, 1986, 259 pp.

SASSÒLI Marco, "The National Information Bureau in Aid of the Victims of

Armed Conflicts”, in *IRRC*, No. 256, January 1987, pp. 6-24

SCHREYER Thierry, “L’action de l’Agence centrale de recherches du CICR dans les Balkans durant la crise des réfugiés kosovars”, in *IRRC*, No. 837, March 2000, pp. 49-65.

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**Source URL:** <https://casebook.icrc.org/glossary/central-tracing-agency>

**Links**

[1] <http://www.icrc.org/eng/who-we-are/index.jsp>

[2] <https://casebook.icrc.org/glossary/prisoners-war>

[3] <https://casebook.icrc.org/glossary/protected-persons>

[4] <https://casebook.icrc.org/glossary/internment>

[5] <https://casebook.icrc.org/glossary/missing-persons>

[6] <https://casebook.icrc.org/law/wounded-sick-shipwrecked-dead-and-missing#chapter8>

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[10]

<https://www.icrc.org/applic/ihl/ihl.nsf/Article.xsp?action=openDocument&documentId=799151C4C9C07C6EC12563CD0>

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[databases.icrc.org/applic/ihl/ihl.nsf/Comment.xsp?action=openDocument&documentId=3C522B552C02FD91C1257F150](https://ihl-databases.icrc.org/applic/ihl/ihl.nsf/Comment.xsp?action=openDocument&documentId=3C522B552C02FD91C1257F150)

[12]

<https://www.icrc.org/applic/ihl/ihl.nsf/Article.xsp?action=openDocument&documentId=7589788DC88FB8F6C12563CD0>

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<https://www.icrc.org/applic/ihl/ihl.nsf/Article.xsp?action=openDocument&documentId=CBBF9C5B47E2A35EC12563CD0>

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<https://www.icrc.org/applic/ihl/ihl.nsf/Article.xsp?action=openDocument&documentId=B9AC1957F13CFC98C12563CD0>

[15] <https://casebook.icrc.org/case-study/icrc-tracing-service>

[16] <https://casebook.icrc.org/case-study/iraniraq-70000-prisoners-war-repatriated>

[17] <https://casebook.icrc.org/case-study/bosnia-and-herzegovina-release-prisoners-war-and-tracing-missing-persons-after-end>

[18] <https://casebook.icrc.org/case-study/un-working-group-enforced-or-involuntary-disappearances-report-mission-serbia-including>