# UPR PRE-SESSION ON SLOVENIA

PARTNERSHIP IN TRUTH
FOR PEACE AND RECONCILIATION



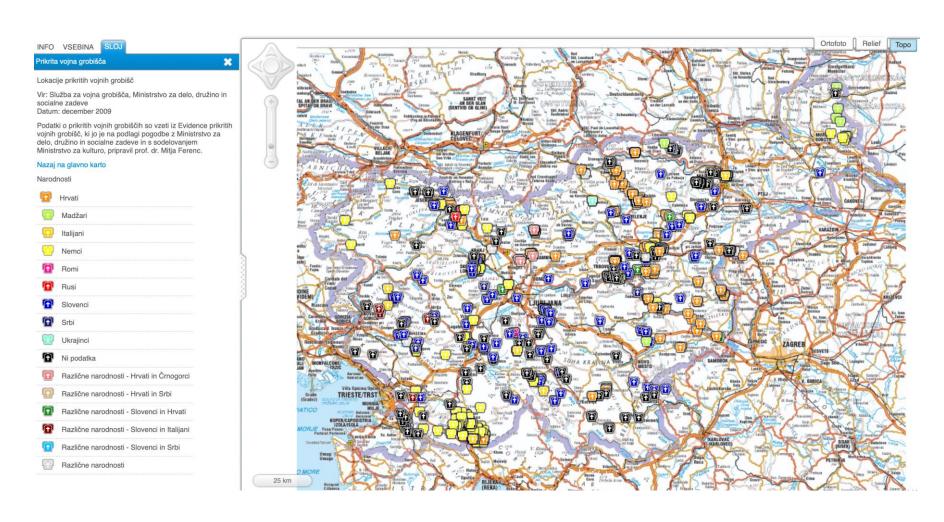
Under the Linden Tree of Reconciliation



#### Key interest points

- Identification and individual burial of exhumed victims in family designated graves
- Legal framework for DNA sample collection from family members
- Equal right to burial without discrimination on basis of national, ethnic, political or military classification
- Presumption of innocence to be returned if legal basis of conviction no longer exists
- Investigate and prosecute violations and violators of Geneva Conventions

# Slovenia: a massive grave site for over 100.000 killed without trial



## Legal framework

- Concealed War Graves and Burial of Victims Act (Slovenia, 2015) assigns and applies the Geneva Conventions of 1949
- Commentary on the First Geneva Convention, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition (ICRC, 2016)
- UN Human Rights Council Advisory Committee Progress Report on best practices on the issue of missing persons (UNHRC, 2010)
- UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights: Unearthing Attrocities: Mass Graves in territory formerly controlled by ISIL (November, 2018)
- European Parliament resolution of 19 September 2019 on the importance of European remembrance for the future of Europe (2019/2819(RSP))

### Setting examples

- "Right to Know" (International humanitarian law grants the families of missing persons the right to know the fate and whereabouts of their loved ones. This right is further defined as a human right by the UN.)
- Hiding unresolved problems and not pursuing best available practices and solutions is shameful – dealing with the past is not!
- "Violent conflicts are social disasters which fundamentally change the trust relationships in a society. Trust is easy to lose, but takes a long time to rebuild." "The key is to treat all victims equally, regardless of whose side they were on in the conflict. This builds trust, which is essential to societal safety," (prof. Kirsten Voigt Juhl, Ph.D.)

#### Appeal to the Human Rights Commission

- Strongly recommend specific action on the implementation of a legal framework for DNA identification and other "Right to Know" measures
- Demand the implementation of EQUALITY of deceased as a fundamental principle to be enforced when identifying or burying exhumed victims
- Recommend the application of JUSTICE, by ensuring a presumption of innocence for wrongly accused/convicted and the investigation of crimes committed
- Strengthen the role of Civil Society in processes of Reconciliation

#### Peace of Mind





Huda jama, Slovenia Amatrice, Italy