



Date: 13 March 2009

HUMAN RIGHTS ADVISORY PANEL

Press release issued by the Secretariat

PUBLIC HEARING BALAJ and OTHERS v. UNMIK

The Human Rights Advisory Panel will hold a public hearing on Thursday 19 March 2009 at 10.00 a.m., on the merits in the case of Balaj and others v. UNMIK (Application No. 04/07).

The hearing will take place at the Auditorium, EULEX, Luan Haradinaj Street in Pristina (the former Cinema Hall, at the former UNMIK MHQ)

The complainants

The case concerns an application brought by Kadri Balaj, Shaban Xheladini, Zenel Zeneli and Mustafa Nerjovaj, who reside in Kosovo.

Summary of the facts

Lëvizja VETËVENDOSJE organized a demonstration in Pristina on 10 February 2007 during which the situation deteriorated. The police used tear gas and rubber bullets. Injuries were sustained by the protesters and the police. Mon Balaj and Arben Xheladini were killed, Zenel Zeneli and Mustafa Nerjovaj were injured.

Complaint

The complainants allege that the killing and serious injury of the victims constitute violations of the following human rights guaranteed by a number of international human rights treaties: right to life, prohibition of torture and inhuman treatment, right to an effective remedy, right to a fair trial and right to peaceful assembly.

Procedure

The complaint was lodged with the Human Rights Advisory Panel on 11 October 2007 and declared admissible on 6 June 2008. The Panel decided to hold a public hearing in order to clarify the facts and the legal issues at stake.

After the hearing the Panel will begin its deliberations, which will be held in private. An opinion will be delivered at a later date.

Information for the public:

The hearing will be open to the public and will start promptly at 10.00 a.m. No access will be allowed after the hearing commences. Photo identification will be required for admittance. Seating is limited.

Press contacts:

Mr. John J. Ryan, Executive Officer of the Human Rights Advisory Panel
Tel: + 381 (0)38 504 604 ext. 5847
Email: ryanj@un.org

Ms. Elina Castren, Human Rights Officer, Secretariat of the Human Rights Advisory Panel
Tel: +381 (0)38 504 604 ext. 4557
Email: castrene@un.org

Website: www.unmikonline.org/human_rights/index.htm