



## *The Human Rights Advisory Panel*

UNMIK HQ, East Wing, 10000 Pristina, KOSOVO

HRAP/PR/15  
12 December 2008

### **HUMAN RIGHTS ADVISORY PANEL**

The Human Rights Advisory Panel (the Panel) held its twelfth (12) session in Pristine/Pristina from 8 to 12 December, 2008.

The Panel continued with its examination of complaints and directed the Secretariat to communicate one complaint to Mr. Lamberto Zannier, Special Representative of the Secretary-General, (SRSG) for observations on admissibility and merits in accordance with section 11.3 of UNMIK Regulation No. 2006/12. In this general context, a total of six responses were received from the SRSG in relation to cases communicated to him earlier in accordance with section 11.3 of the Regulation.

The Panel also sent two communications to complainants with requests for further information and clarification at the conclusion of the session. The total workload of the Panel now stands at eighty (80) cases.

The Panel Secretariat continued with the public information campaign during a visit to Serbia on 26 and 27 November, 2008. The Secretariat met with the Association of Kidnapped and Murdered Persons in Prokuplje on 26 November. The participants were provided with a short brief on the Panel mandate and operations and were provided with complainant application forms and information leaflets in Latinic and Cyrillic. This was followed by a meeting with Mr. Gianfranco D'Eramo, Head of the Danish Refugee Council in Belgrade. Mr. D'Eramo undertook to assist the Secretariat through closer collaboration with the organizations and agencies engaged in the human rights sector in Serbia.

The Secretariat also met with representatives of the Ministry for Kosovo and Metohija, UNHCR, the Danish Refugee Council, the International Organization for Migration, PRAXIS, the Initiative for Development and Cooperation and the Balkan Centre for Migration and Humanitarian Activities on 27 November in Belgrade. The participants were provided with a short brief on the Panel mandate and operations, information leaflets in Latinic and Cyrillic and application forms.

The Secretariat also met with Ms. Kruna Petkovic, Assistant Minister, Ministry for Kosovo and Metohija on 27 November, 2008. Ms. Petkovic was already quite familiar with the mandate of the Panel and wished to be briefed on the Panel caseload, types of cases as well as the findings, recommendations and opinions issued by the Panel. She appreciated the difficulties which the Secretariat experienced in its communications with the Internally Displaced Persons in Serbia and she undertook to assist the Secretariat with its public information campaign in this regard through the Ministry.

The public hearing in the Mon Balaj et al case, Case No. 04/07 which had been scheduled to be held in the District Court, Pristina on 15 January, 2009 has been rescheduled to 19 March, 2009 at the request of the legal representatives of the Complainants.

The next session of the Advisory Panel is scheduled from 12 to 17 January, 2009.

Complaints for the Advisory Panel should be sent to the Secretariat of the Human Rights Advisory Panel, Room 13, Container D, UNMIK Administrative HQ, (TSS), Prishtinë/Priština, Kosovo.

**For further information, please contact Mr. John J. Ryan, Executive Officer of the Secretariat of the Human Rights Advisory Panel, Tel: + 381 (0) 38 504 604 Ext 5847, Email: ryanj@un.org. Interested persons are also referred to the website of the Advisory Panel, at [http://www.unmikonline.org/human\\_rights/index.htm](http://www.unmikonline.org/human_rights/index.htm)**