



UNMIK/PR/1054

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## **Dubrava Commission Submits its Report**

PRISTINA - On 4 November 2003 the Dubrava Commission submitted its report to the SRSG on the prisoners' riot and fire in Block 2 at Dubrava Prison on 4 September 2003 that resulted in deaths of 5 prisoners and injuries to 17 prisoners and several prison staff.

The Commission, chaired by Judge Timothy Clayson from the United Kingdom, consisted of Mr Andreas Werren Director of the Penal Management Division for the Canton of Zurich (Switzerland) and Judge Zait Xhemajli from the Kosovo Supreme Court as the Kosovo resident member.

Announcing the public release of the report today, the Deputy SRSG for Police and Justice Jean-Christian Cady stated: "UNMIK fully supports the Dubrava Commission's accurate and objective conclusions and recommendations whose implementation will be vigorously pursued within the funding and logistic constraints."

The Commission concluded that the causes of the riot primarily centred on the lack of educational and recreational activities in the prison that resulted in negative morale and frustration among prisoners. Other major shortcomings identified were insufficient training of local correctional staff and inadequate hygienic conditions in terms of in-cell toilet facilities and intermittent water supplies.

Evaluating the actions of PMD officials during the incident of 4 September, the Commission points to procedural flaws in response to the fire and structural deficiencies in the prison building. These, combined with the lack of adequate contingency plan, ill-defined command responsibility and inadequate training and equipment for fire-fighting and evacuation, enhanced the damage potential of the incident that was mitigated only by the courageous efforts of local and international staff in rescuing inmates from the fire.

The recommendations of the Commission primarily address the need for institutional and management improvements. These relate to security of the accommodation blocks; living conditions for inmates; recruitment, training and better service conditions for the correctional staff; inter-personal and inter-agency relationships; funding mechanism and incident management.

Welcoming the report, Director of Justice Paul Coffey said that the Penal Management Division is already implementing recommendations that are within its ability including introduction of programmes to increase prisoners activities and morale, evaluation of contingency plans, improvement in physical security of the prison and steps to improve training of prison staff. "Modernization of the Dubrava facilities, already underway at the time of the riot of 4 September, is being aggressively addressed and includes construction of a modern prison kitchen and a large occupational training building. We will soon be appointing grievance officers who will deal directly with prisoners about complaints," he added.

***Note: The Dubrava Commission's report is available in the Press Office/DPI. Those interested can pick it up from here.***