

Thank you Madame Chairman

As a Swedish based NGO, we do try to work with HR situation of the minorities in the OSCE countries, without matter if we talk about the right to use the mother language for the Hungarians minority in Slovakia or the right of the Chams to return to their homes in Greece. However, we in the Western Europe rather concentrate on other none-European cases. We should highlight that we in Europe has a lot of issues that need our concern, and highlight cases when minorities does not even poses the right to live and use their language properly. Presheva Valley in the South Serbia is such a case. There is an Albanian minority living in 3 major cities, Presheva, Bujanoc and Medvegje.

Due to the lack of BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS and Discrimination from the Serbian Authorities, an armed conflict did take place there 2001. Thanks to the efforts done by the United States and the rest of the International Community that conflicts did ended with an agreement signed in Korcul, Serbia. **That agreement did provide more equal rights for the Albanian minority in Presheva Valey. However, that remained only on paper. Unfortunately.**

2001 there were 8 6000 Albanians living in this region  
Today 2009, there are only 5 6000 left. Moreover, on the daily bases, even now as we speak their rights are being abused, contrary to the Serbian Laws and Regulations.

#### **The right TO LIVE SAFELY DUE TO THE ETHNICITY**

January 2005, Dashnim Hajrullahu 15 years OLD was shoot by the police. No investigation was ever initiated by the Serbian Authorities.

#### **HEALTH**

Pregnant Albanian WOMEN are not allowed to give birth to their babies in the region, due to the lack of a local hospital.

#### **EDUCATION:**

**Ambassador Vollenbeck did mention EDUCATION as one of the main factors to be raised here today. I agree:**

**- It is not allowed to establish any higher education in the Albanian in the region. The Albanian students have to go to other countries like, Albania, Kosovo or Macedonia in order to get a univerity degree. When they return their degrees are not being recognised by the Serbian authorities.**

#### **THE RIGHT for FREE MEDIA on your own language**

May 2009 - the chief editor and 2 journalists of the ONLY Albanian TV station were set to trial.

#### **Security**

December 2008, 10 Albanians were arrested with accusation of being war criminals. The whole city of Presheva was surrounded.

- Last WEDNESDAY the 23rd of September for the first time they were put on trial, however long before that the Serbian interior minister did state in the Parliament that they are guilty. ONCE, only ONCE was the International Red Cross allowed to visit the detains. LAST week, could everybody in the COURT ROOM witness that these 10 persons belong to the Albanian minority were tortured, they had broken bones, and blood on their faces.

### **MILITARY BASE:**

Despite the pledge from the Albanian minority inhabitation this region, the government in Serbia did build a LARGE military base there, in accordance to the plans done by the cabinet of the late president of Serbia, Slobodan Milosevic.

Having in mind that we see all the signs of the pre-conflict period of year 2001 and believing on the free will of the present Serbian government to rebecome part of the democracies in Europe, WE recommend:

- Make it possible to establish Higher Education in Presheva Valley,
- Do their outmost to establish a regional hospital in the Presheva Valley,
- To stop harassing FREE MEDIA managed by the minorities and allow them to work freely,

To take necessary steps to overcome the political, economical and social discrimination against the Albanian minority in Southern Serbia, through:

- Increasing the presentation of minorities in the regional and local authorities,
- - Increasing possibility for real Bilingual approach in the state regional and local structure, contrary to the present situation,

- A Demilitarization of the zone, so that all inhabitants can feel safe and the tolerance level among all in the region can get established,
- Recognize the Diplomas and other university degrees that Albanian students poses from neighbouring countries,

Last but not LEAST

- Make it possible for the Serbian refugees of Albanian heritage that were ethnically cleansed from the Presheva Valley to return to their homes and live in peace and built reconciliation, stability and DEVELOPMENT.