

**OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting
(Warsaw, 2-13 October 2006)
WORKING SESSION 5
Refugees and Displaced Persons**

**STATEMENT OF THE DELEGATION OF
THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA**

IN THE RIGHT OF REPLY

Mr. Moderator,

In exercising the right of reply, let me touch upon few points raised by the representative of the Helsinki Committee for Human Rights of the Republic of Macedonia. Among the things mentioned by the NGO representative it has been said that no official statistics is being kept on the Internally Displaced Persons (IDP's) in the Republic of Macedonia. Let me point out that according to the latest statistics their number is 725 persons out of which 477 are accommodated in special centers and 248 are accommodated in host families. All of the IDP's comes from the areas of three cities, namely Kumanovo, Skopje and Tetovo.

The problem of the IDP's is an issue which deserves special attention since it is always a complex problem which should be solved under a certain time pressure. The Government has undertaken a lot of activities to provide safe return for these persons to their homes. Just to illustrate the movements in this sphere I will use the figures again.

In the aftermath of the crisis more than 76.046 persons were internally displaced. In March 2005 the total IDP population was 1.299 persons. The Government has since 2001 taken initiatives to resettle people, to reconstruct houses, buildings and infrastructure as well as providing assistance to IDP's in camps or in host families. When comparing the past and present statistics one can notice a substantial decrease in the number of IDP's.

The problem of IDP's has been brought to the attention of relevant institutions. Certain complains by IDP's have been presented to the Parliamentary Committee on Human Rights which has forwarded the information to the Government seeking for a more comprehensive solution. On other hand the issue of IDP's has been also considered by the Ombudsman who has presented a report highlighting some of the problems the IDP's have been facing with.

Having said this, I would like to stress that the issue is under constant consideration. The Government is looking into the suggestions of other institutions how to better deal with this issue. The problem of

IDP's is interlinked to the confidence building between communities in the former crisis areas, which is a measure also undertaken by the Government. We are aware of the fact that each IDP case is a special one and involves a personal drama. It is understandable that looking from the perspective of the IDP's it seems that all the actions undertaken are not sufficient.

I would like to reiterate once again the Macedonian Government's strong commitment to resolve this issue in a most favorable way. By saying this, of course, I would not like to diminish the criticism received, but to present that the problem of IDP's is being dealt with accompanied with difficulties which are an integral part of such a complex issue.