

ODIHR Human Dimension Implementation Meeting
Warsaw, Poland
2-11 October 2006
Questions for the session 15

Tolerance and non discrimination II
Roma/Sinti; Implementation of the OSCE Action Plan for Roma and Sinti Issues

NATIONAL ROMA CENTRUM

- Roma, Ashkali and Egyptians after the war conflicts in the Balkan region are still refugees, IDP's, failed asylum seekers, or are facing with deportation from countries of Western Europe. Although their free and safe return to Kosovo is guaranteed with various measures and standards. About 100.000 Roma are still refugees from Kosovo.
- All efforts therefore must be made to remove existing obstacles with regard to the return to the places of origin, and refugees and internally displaced persons have the fundamental human right to return to their homes, irrespective of their ethnicity, in either a spontaneous or an organized and assisted manner.
- The issue of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian returnees from Western Europe should be discussed in the status talks in the framework of decentralization.
- All efforts therefore must be made to remove existing obstacles with regard to the return to the places of origin,
- IDPs/refugees within and outside Kosovo live in unstable and often unacceptable conditions in locations other than their place of origin, facing with many difficulties and problems that are endangering their existence and future.
- Concrete Plan and Strategy for the Roma refugee and IDP's community should be adopted and implemented.
- Civil registration and lack of personal documentation among the Roma community must be solved due to the proper statistic database for census or elections on Kosovo, and the fact that personal documentation is condition for performing other civil rights.
- Special programmes for return and reintegration of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptians (RAE) on Kosovo, based upon free will and real opportunity to integrate in the society.
- To assist to IDP's and returnees to repossess their real estate and personal property on Kosovo as pre-condition for normal living or to secure for them normal living standards and housing if needed in other possible areas.

Question for the Government of Kosovo:

What would be the next step for Government of Kosovo to ensure representation of Roma in the governmental structures, in particularly those dealing with the return?

Question for the Government of Serbia:

When the Government of Serbia will adopt and start implementation of the Action Plans on Roma IDPs and returnees?

EUROPEAN ROMA RIGHTS CENTRE

- Increasing number of deportations and threatened deportations of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptians from the OSCE participating states, such as Germany, Sweden, Macedonia and other countries.
- Limited opportunities in Kosovo for adequate housing, education, employment and health care, and in a number of areas we cannot even move freely.
- The authorities of the OSCE participating states should immediately stop the deportation of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptians to Kosovo, as well as to the rest of Serbia and Montenegro, because these forced expulsions violate our dignity and our fundamental human rights. These states should also cease, without delay, any forms of arbitrary pressure on Roma, Ashkali and Egyptians to go to Kosovo, Serbia or Montenegro.

Question:

Requesting from Macedonian authorities to renew the asylum process because most of the applications are rejected for the same reason and this cannot be accepted because the asylum process is individual process.