



Annex 1: UNMIK-Bedenken: Rückkehr während der Wintermonate

UNITED NATIONS
United Nations Interim
Administration Mission
in Kosovo

NATIONS UNIES
Mission d'Administration Intérimaire des
Nations Unies
au Kosovo

UNMIK

OFFICE OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

15th October 2001

Dear ...

Thank you very much for your message (...). We would like to take this opportunity to express a few concerns UNMIK has with regard to returns during the winter period.

First, reconstruction during these months is virtually impossible due to the hardship of the Balkan winter. As a result, UNMIK asks that the return of people in need of social assistance be avoided. The arrival of those in need of accommodation should especially be prevented. The criteria for both social assistance and acceptance into a Temporary Community Shelter are very strict.

Secondly, other issues to consider are employment opportunities and education. The current unemployment rate in Kosovo is estimated at 65%, making the access to the labour market highly problematic.

Schools in Kosovo are presently working in shifts, as the education sector cannot accommodate all the potential pupils. Furthermore, children's education ought not be interrupted during the academic school year, as the re-adaptation process may prove to be difficult.

Consequently, UNMIK asks States to refrain from returning Kosovo Albanians until next spring, unless accommodation is assured, adequate financial resources are provided and a determination made that social assistance is not required.

As far as vulnerable groups are concerned, their return should be postponed until adequate assistance can be ensured. In this context, the return of single mothers, and children should not be under-taken as they often represent a vulnerable population.

In particular, people showing signs of mental illnesses cannot be returned to Kosovo due to the lack of appropriate treatment. In addition, the return of ethnic minority members cannot be foreseen in the immediate future, due to the continued ethnic discrimination and violence.

Finally, please be reminded that UNMIK is responsible only for the administration of Kosovo and cannot accept any deported person originating from other parts of FRY or from any other country.

Thank you for your cooperation

Quelle: Kosova Inoffline