Monday 14 December 2009 HRAP/PR/22

Press release issued by the Secretariat:

UNMIK SETS 31 MARCH 2010 CUT-OFF DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF COMPLAINTS TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS ADVISORY PANEL

On 17 October 2009, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General promulgated UNMIK Administrative Direction no. 2009/1 implementing UNMIK Regulation no. 2006/12 on the Establishment of the Human Rights Advisory Panel. Amongst other matters UNMIK addressed in the Administrative Direction, Section 5 of the Administrative Direction states:

Cut-off Date for Submission of Complaints

Notwithstanding section 3.1 of UNMIK Regulation No. 2006/12 on the Establishment of the Human Rights Advisory Panel, <u>no complaint</u> to the Advisory Panel shall be admissible if received by the Secretariat of the Advisory Panel later than 31 March 2010.

Therefore, persons who would like to file a complaint with the UNMIK Human Rights Advisory Panel should ensure that their complaints are received by the Secretariat prior to 31 March 2010. Complainants must be mindful however, that in order for the Human Rights Advisory Panel to review their complaints, such complaints must meet all of the admissibility criteria set out in Sections 2, 3, and 11 of UNMIK Regulation no. 2006/12, as well as the additional admissibility criteria set forth in Section 2 of UNMIK Administrative Direction no. 2009/1. Potential complainants should pay particular attention to Section 3.1 of UNMIK Regulation no. 2006/12, according to which the Human Rights Advisory Panel may only deal with a matter after it has determined that all other available avenues for review of the alleged violations have been pursued, and within a period of six months from the date on which the final decision was taken.

The full text of UNMIK Administrative Direction no. 2009/1 is available on the Human Rights Advisory Panel website, at www.unmikonline.org/human_rights/regulations.htm.

For further information, please contact the Secretariat of the Human Rights Advisory Panel, Tel: + 381 (0) 38 504 604 Ext 5182, 5539, Email: hrap-unmik@un.org or visit our website at www.unmikonline.org/human_rights/index.htm.

Complaints for the Human Rights Advisory Panel can be submitted to:

Address in Prishtinë/Priština: Address in Belgrade:

Human Rights Advisory Panel UN Office in Belgrade

UNMIK Mission HQ, TSS (for: Human Rights Advisory Panel in

Building D-12 Prishtinë/Priština)
Prishtinë/Priština Tolstojeva 47-49
Kosovo 11000 Belgrade

Serbia