HUMAN RIGHTS ADVISORY PANEL

The Human Rights Advisory Panel (the Panel) held its seventh session in Pristina/Pristina from 2 to 6 June, 2008.

The Panel continued with its examination of complaints, requesting further evidence from complainants in 3 cases, and extending the deadline for submission of evidence from complainants in two cases.

The Panel declared that three complaints were admissible and is referring these cases to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) for his response in accordance with section 11.3 of UNMIK Regulation No. 2006/12. The Panel extended the deadline for submission of responses to six admissible complaints that had been previously communicated to the SRSG by a further twenty days.

The Panel declared four cases inadmissible, on the basis that the complainants in two complaints were not victims of the violations that were complained of, and that another aspect of one of these complaints was manifestly ill-founded; that a complaint that was not submitted within the six month time limit; and that a complaint was incompatible with the human rights set forth in the relevant human rights instruments.

Ms. Magda Mierzweska, a human rights expert from the European Court of Human Rights commenced a two month secondment with the Panel on 10 May, 2008. She has contributed significantly to the improvement of the research, analysis and drafting capacity of the Secretariat.

The Panel held meetings with Mr. Paul Miller, Head of Office, (OHCHR) Pristina and Mr. Roque Raymondo, recently appointed Special Human Rights Adviser, UNMIK.

The broadcast of the Human Rights Advisory Panel Public Service Announcement commenced on Kosovo and Serbian TV on 2 June, 2008. In addition, Mr. Marek Nowicki, Presiding Member of the Panel conducted a radio and television interview with TV/Radio KIM in Caglavica on 5 July. This interview was carried on TV Pink and B92 on 6 July and may be accessed on the websites of B92 and FONET, the Serbian news site.

The next session of the Advisory Panel is scheduled to take place from 9 to 15 July, 2008.

Complaints for the Advisory Panel should be sent to the Secretariat of the Human Rights Advisory Panel, Room 19, Second Floor, UNMIK Main HQ, East Wing, Pristina, Kosovo.
For further information, please contact Mr. John J. Ryan, Executive Officer of the Secretariat of the Human Rights Advisory Panel, Tel: + 381 (0) 38 504 604 Ext 5847, Email: ryanj@un.org. Interested persons are also referred to the website of the Advisory Panel, at http://www.unmikonline.org/human_rights/index.htm.