

Joint Conclusions Return to Ferizaj / Uroševac

7 September 2005

All sides agree that there is potential for increasing returns to the town center of Ferizaj / Uroševac.

All sides reject the use of violence against any person and call for all responsible persons to increase their efforts in the investigation of any incidents. All call on residents not to prejudice the investigation by making assumptions about the crimes.

All sides regret the absence of the Municipal President, Deputy President and CEO of Strpce / Shtërpçë and encourage them to enter into serious dialogue with the municipal authorities of Ferizaj / Uroševac. Cooperation and dialogue must begin with the leaders of the municipalities. These persons have an obligation to their citizens to represent them in all important meetings regarding cooperation between the two municipalities.

All sides agree that the municipality has made good efforts to welcome returns of former residents and commit themselves to strengthening return.

1. It is possible to strengthen returns to the Ferizaj / Uroševac town center in a secure way. The Strpce / Shtërpçë MRO will work together with the IDP Association and the Municipal Working Group on Return to identify as a first phase of return a possible return site in the town centre focusing on 1 to 3 streets where Kosovo Serbs wish to return. The municipality will be responsible for creating a tolerant and welcoming environment.
2. It is important that the municipal working group on return have one common and detailed list of families wishing to return to the above mentioned return sites. The MRO of Strpce / Shtërpçë will provide this list in writing at the next meeting.
3. The two Municipal Return Officers should meet regularly and exchange information. The Municipal Return Officer of Ferizaj/Uroševac welcomes an invitation to participate in the next meeting of the municipal working group on return in Strpce / Shtërpçë.
4. The Communities Committee will develop together with the IDP association proposals for social events for IDPs and former neighbors. The municipality will support these initiatives.

5. It is important to ensure that IDP representatives have regular transportation between the two municipalities. All welcome that UNMIK reassures the IDPs that they will provide this transport for them. The Ministry for Communities and Return and the municipal government of Ferizaj/Uroševac have offered transportation as well.
6. All sides support the continued operation of the bus line between the two municipalities. It would be good to widely publicize its benefits. For three month the municipalities of Ferizaj / Uroševac and Strpce / Shtërpçë will cover the cost of the bus. In the meantime, the Ministry of Communities and Return will consider taking over the bus line with a multiethnic staff. All welcome the intervention by the Ministry on this issue.
7. UNMIK has registered the complaints of IDPs concerning the repossession of their property and agrees to meet separately with the IDPs on this issue. The municipal government is ready to receive in writing any complaints regarding business premises or other properties and will give assistance or documents where appropriate. The CEO has agreed to accept these complaints.
8. The Kosovo Serb IDPs have an interest in go and see visits but have some complaints about the current process. All sides call on the responsible offices and international organizations to improve facilitation and regular visits.
9. The Ministry for Communities and Return should attend the municipal work groups on return.
10. There are problems in all communities with the loss of documents related to education, work and pensions. The Communities Committee agrees to be the focal point and look into this issue, supported by UNMIK and the Ministry for Communities and Return. Where possible new documents will be issued, if not the Ministry will look into other proposals for resolving this issue.
11. CSSP will lobby international donors for projects that support improving contacts and return that are developed jointly by the municipalities.
12. CSSP welcomes a report by both municipalities regarding progress on these issues by 1 December 2005.

The conclusions were agreed in consensus.

Participants

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Ms. Spomenka Kojadinovic	MRO (Strpce / Shtërpçë)
Ms. Gordana Ristic	President IDPs (Strpce / Shtërpçë)
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