

A CRY FOR HELP FROM ROMA FAMILIES POISONED FOR TEN YEARS BY THE UNITED NATIONS IN KOSOVO

**An Appeal, in English and Serbian
from Skender Gushani,
Leader of the Roma Camps of Northern Kosovo**



Regarding the International Refugee Day

19. June 2009,

Mitrovica

Unfortunately the Internal Displaced Roma who live in the camps in north Mitrovica, are "celebrating" the International Refugee Day for 10th time in the camps which were supposed to be a settlement for 45 days. This time, this day will be remembered with the death of 2-year-old child who died in Kragujevac hospital on 19th June 2009. The child was living in Ostorode camp. Doctors have constituted that the child was suffering from bronchitis and were assuming on kidney problems. The autopsy was not done after the death of the child. Did the Lead contamination kill the child? Let the responsible people try to find answer on that question! The international community and the authorities (both Albanian and Serbian) are closing their eyes on this issue.

The Roma who are suffering in the camps, are getting hopes every year that their problems will be resolved but actually every year brings them more deaths because they live in the camps and the consequence is constant exposure of high lead contamination which caused very high lead levels in children's blood, in some cases even 300 higher than the normal rate.

2006 World Health Organization (WHO) and UN Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) encouraged Roma from other camps (Zitkovac, Kablare) which were lead contaminated also, to move to Ostorode camp which was according to them lead safer, even though it was less than 100 meters far from Kablare and Cesmin Lug camps. Zitkovac and Kablare camps were closed in 2006 and people were relocated to the Ostorode camp, some families from Cesmin Lug were relocated too. In 2007 WHO reported that the lead levels were decreasing but the results were not presented. Since people did not believe on this, because they did not had what do believe in, the camp representatives have requested from the Institute of Health in Mitrovica additional testing of lead levels. After the testing which was conducted in beginning, middle and the end of 2008, all three phases of testing indicated on still

very high lead contamination in children's blood from Cesmin Lug, but even more from Ostorode.

Despite all the sufferings in the camps, it is not known whether there is a chance to cure the Roma people. The truth is still a secret. Therefore I ask all institutions to resolve this issue together to put an end of the suffering and deaths of Romas, and all we need is medical treatment for our children, because our children are our wealth.

I ask for truth and a solution for medical treatment.

Skender Gusani, representative of Romas from the north Mitrovica camps

Povodom Medjunarodnog Dana Izbeglice

19. Jun 2009,

Mitrovica

Nazalost Interno Raseljeni Romi koji zive u kampovima u severnoj Mitrovici, po deseti put obelezavaju Medjunarodni Dan Izbeglica u kampovima koji su trebali da budu smestaj za 45 dana. Ovog puta ce ovaj dan biti pamcen smrscu dvo-godishnjeg deteta koje je umrlo 19.Juna 2009 u bolnici u Kragujevcu. Dete je zivelo u Ostorode kamp. Lekari su ustanovili da je dete prehljeno I sumjnali na problem sa bubrezima, nakon smrti deteta nije uradjena obdukcija. Da li je olovo ubilo to dete? Neka se potruce da nadju odgovor ljudi koji su odgovorni za te napacene Rome iz kampova! Na sve ovo medjunarodna zajednica I sve ostale institucije (albanske, srpske) zatvaraju oci pred istinom.

Napaceni Romi iz kampova se svake godine nadaju da ce se resiti njihovi problemi ali ustvari svaka godina je smrtonosna za njih, jer jos uvek zive u kampovima a posledica zivljenja u kampu je konstantna izlozesnost visoke koncentracije olova koja je prouzrokovala veoma visoku kolicinu olova u krvi dece, cak 300 puta veca od dozvoljene.

2006 godine Svetska Zdravstvena Organizacija (WHO) I Misija UNa na Kosovu (UNMIK) su ohrabrivale Rome iz drugih kampova (Zitkovac, Kablare) a koji su takodje bili zagdjeni olovom, da se presele u Ostorode kamp koji je po njima bio bezbedniji od olova, iako je bio udaljen manje od 100 metara od kampa Kablare I Cesmin Lug. Zitkovac I Kablare kampovi su zatvoreni 2006 a ljudi su premesteni u kamp Ostorode, neke porodice iz kampa Cesmin Lug su takodje premesteni. WHO je 2007 predstavljala da se kolicina olova u krvi dece smanjuje, ali nisu pokazivali rezultate. Posto im narod nije verovao jer nisu imali u sta da veruju, prestavnici kampova su zatrazili od Instituta Zdravlja Mitrovice, dodatno ispitivanje kolicine olova u krvi dece. Nakon ispitivanja, pocetkom, sredinom I krajem 2008 godine sve tri faze ispitivanja su ukazale na veoma visoku koncentraciju olova u krvi dece iz kampova Cesmin Lug, ali jos vise u kampu Ostorode.

Pored tolike patnje I dan danas se ne zna da li postoji sansa za lecenje Roma. Jos uvek se krije istina.

Zato molim sve institucije da zajednicki nadjemo resenje da bi smo zaustavali dalju patnju I smrt Roma, I trazimo samo lecenje nase dece, jer nasa deca su nasa dragocenost.

Molim za istinu I resenje za lecenje.

Skender Gusani, prestavnik Roma iz kampova u severnoj Mitrovici