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Relocation of IDPs to Camp Osterode
UNMIK Press Release, Jan. 5th, 2006

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Dear Mr. Polansky,

thank you for sending me the above UNMIK Press Release from Jan. 5th which details the proposed relocation of the IDPs to the vacated French KFOR Camp.

Although the UN Plan offers access to health and hygiene infrastructure, social supports, children's programmes as well as employment and training opportunities for the IDPs, I have serious reservations about how this relocation will reduce the life-threatening lead and heavy metal pollution. As we know there exist next to the Roma camps and also the French KFOR Camp Osterode huge mountains of toxic soil which continue through contaminated air the heavy metal exposure of all people living there.

Our analysis showed dangerously high levels of different heavy metals (Lead, Arsenic, Cadmium, Aluminum etc.) in 64 IDPs (mainly children). From my point of view it would be absolutely necessary as a preventive step of medical care to relocate the IDPs to a safer unpolluted region. Camp Osterode is not a safe area. In fact, I am not surprised about your report that French military doctors have advised all soldiers who were stationed there not to father a child for nine months after leaving Osterode. I strongly believe that the UN should give the same warning to the IDPs as long as they are in the camps or at Osterode.

Regarding therapy I would like to know which kind of detoxification treatment is planned? I would appreciate any information about this, because I believe the Lead levels and other toxic metals are so high among many of the IDP children that normal treatment (f.e. with EDTA) will mobilize toxic elements too quickly and cause severe symptoms. If there is any help needed from our side please let me know.

Yours sincerely,


Klaus-Dietrich Runow MD
Medical Director, IFU