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Contact John J. Ryan

Press Release - Human Rights Review Panel

The Human Rights Review Panel (the Panel) held its 16th session in Pristina from 5 to 7 June, 2013. There were 18 complaints pending before the Panel at the start of the session.

The Panel decided unanimously that there had been violations of human rights by EULEX Kosovo [in four cases](#) related to incidents on Vidovdan, [28 June 2012](#). The complainants submitted that they were the subject of attacks, which included, inter alia, the throwing of stones and Molotov cocktails at teenage children who were travelling on buses from Gazimestan to Gračanica/Graçanicë at the conclusion of the Vidovdan celebrations. The Panel found that EULEX had allocated insufficient resources to ensure respect for human rights by the Kosovo authorities and third parties during the Vidovdan security operation. Therefore, the complainants could not enjoy their right to respect to private life (guaranteed by Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) and Article 17 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), their freedom of assembly (Article 11 ECHR; Articles 21 and 22 ICCPR) as well as their right to exercise their religion (Article 9 ECHR and Articles 18 ICCPR).

Moreover, the Panel found that EULEX failed to conduct a thorough and adequate investigation into the allegations of human rights violations. The Panel consequently concluded that the complainants were denied an adequate remedy for the violation of their human rights and decided that there was a violation of their right to an effective remedy (Article 13 ECHR; Article 2 ICCPR). The Panel submitted a number of recommendations for remedial measures in the Decisions provided to the EULEX Head of Mission and to the complainants.

The Panel declared another [case to be admissible](#) in relation to the alleged perpetration of human rights violations by an international EULEX staff member on a Kosovo police officer. The Panel invited the EULEX Head of Mission and the complainant to submit their additional observations on the merits of this case. Another [case was found inadmissible](#). It concerned a labour dispute between the complainant and his former employer, the Kosovo Electric Company. During the session the Panel communicated two further cases to the Head of Mission for information and comments.

All decisions will be published on the Panel's website upon translation into the Albanian and Serbian languages.

The next Panel session is scheduled to take place from 27 to 30 August 2013. There are currently 27 cases pending before the Panel, six of them

HRRP-Building
Rrustem Statovci Street 29
10000 Pristina
Kosovo

Tel: +386 (0) 43 78 2125, Fax: +381 (0) 38 78 7711
office@hrrp.eu www.hrrp.eu

communicated to the parties, two declared admissible and 19 awaiting examination.

Please see www.hrrp.eu for further information on the Panel.

Notes to the editor;

The Human Rights Review Panel (Panel) for EULEX Kosovo, as an independent accountability mechanism for alleged violations of human rights, reviews complaints from any person claiming to be the victim of human rights violations by EULEX Kosovo in the conduct of its executive mandate. The Panel is not a judicial or disciplinary body. The mechanism will solely look into whether a violation of human rights occurred or not and formulate recommendations for remedial action. Such action does not include monetary compensation. The Panel is independent in the exercise of its functions which it performs with impartiality and integrity.