



TO: Paul Pfeuffer, Marianne Toussaint, Brad Evans
Office of South Central European Affairs
Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs
U.S. Department of State

FROM: Mirjana Samardzija, President

SUBJECT: US aid to Kosovo: Minority Returns and Rights to Private Property

DATE: October 29, 2009

We are in the process of studying the problem of lack of minority returns to Kosovo 10 years after the bombing in 1999. We are focusing specifically on the problem of minorities' ability to regain rights to their private property. Without this the returns will remain problematic. We are looking at various aspects.

Examination of US appropriations for Kosovo for 1999 to 2010 shows a total of about \$1.5 billion. It is hard to break out how much of these moneys were meant to assist the return process and the minorities' ability to exercise the right to their properties. Appropriations documents show that there is intent that these moneys be applied to this purpose. They state that:

“US government assistance is being provided to establish legal and legislative frameworks for minority protection and communities, immigration and asylum..... infrastructure assistance .. with focus on minority communities.. provide assistance to minority communities in areas of returns and relocations ... protect minority rights..”

Would you be kind enough to assist us in this effort by providing us with the following information:

Of the \$1.5 billion appropriated to Kosovo how much was intended for minorities as per the statement above -- returns and reconstruction of minority properties and enforcement of laws that protect and guarantee their ability to exercise the right to their private property? Please break that down by budget line item intended for this purpose.

1. What percent of the total appropriations does the amount for minorities constitute?
2. Does the US have a system by which it can monitor how the funds appropriated to Kosovo are used and if they are used as intended?
 - a. Is there a process by which Kosovo reports to the US on its use of these funds?
 - b. Does the US have a system in place by which it can track and double check the actual application of those funds and if they are used as intended?

3. Does the US place any conditions for the appropriation of funds to Kosovo, and if so, what are they?

We have also prepared some tables we are asking various other parties involved in the property rights issue to fill with data – UN, other international organizations, Serb sources. Would you be kind enough to provide us with the data you have for these tables, and cite the sources. The workbook with the tables is attached.

Your assistance is greatly appreciated. You may need more time to complete the tables. Would you be kind enough to answer the top three questions as soon as you can.

Thank you.