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ATRC web site:
www.advocacy-center.org

Kosovo President Urges NGOs to "Stay Away from Politics"

ATRC, in cooperation with the Office of the President of Kosovo, organized a roundtable meeting between President Fatmir Sejdiu and representatives of civil society at the national assembly building on July 18.

During the meeting, they discussed the latest political developments in Kosovo and possible ways in which civil society could contribute.

"According to the information we possess, I fully believe that Kosovo will be independent this year, and its relationship with the inter-

national community will be a priority," Sejdiu stated.

The President urged NGO representatives to initiate "new development and dynamic of general democratic processes in Kosovo and to stay away from politics."

"Don't be part of any political lobby or an instrument of any political party because you may lose the

quality you possess," Sejdiu added.

The meeting was part of an ATRC initiative that aims to bring together members of the negotiation team for the final status of Kosovo and civil society representatives.



The roundtable meeting between the President of Kosovo Fatmir Sejdiu and representatives of civil society on July 18

NGO funding opportunities

European Agency for Reconstruction Calls for Proposals to Strengthen Civil Society Networks in Kosovo

The European Agency for Reconstruction is seeking proposals to support civil society associations in Kosovo.

Financial assistance is being provided by the CARDS Programme of the European Communities.

The main objectives of the program are to strengthen the capacity of civil society associations to form partnerships and networks; to improve professional standards in order to increase public service delivery; and to take active part in the information, education and application of EU related issues.

The program aims to strengthen the capacity of

civil society associations to contribute effectively to the transformation and development of the economic and governance structures bringing all Kosovo's communities closer to Euro-

pean standards.

International organisations, NGOs and civil society associations are invited to submit proposals that address the program's objectives and priorities.

A full description of the program is provided in the Guidelines for Grant Applicants.

Applicants can download the Guidelines for Grant Applicants from one of the following internet sites:
http://ec.europa.eu/comm/europeaid/tender/gestion/index_en.htm, or
<http://www.ear.eu.int/projects/projects.htm>

The deadline for submitting proposals is November 3, 2006.



An information session about the call for proposals will be held on September 12, 2006 at 10:30 at the European Agency for Reconstruction office in Prishtina



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Human Rights Should be Central to Talks on Kosovo's Final Status, Amnesty International Says

"As talks towards defining the final status of Kosovo continue in Vienna, Amnesty International calls on the participants to ensure that the protection of human rights of all persons in Kosovo remain at the heart of the process, and are addressed at every stage and in all aspects of the talks," an Amnesty International press release published on July 24 said.

In a document sent to all participants in the talks, Amnesty International provided a series of recom-

mendations for ensuring that the promotion, protection and fulfillment of human rights are guaranteed in any final settlement. The organization believed that irrespective of Kosovo's final status the human rights of all people must be respected, protected and fulfilled and that all those in positions of authority at the local and international levels must be accountable for their actions.

"The participation and input of all communities in Kosovo, including minori-

ties such as the Roma, Ashkali, Egyptians, Bosniaks, Gorani, and Turks, as well as women's organizations, should be ensured as a guarantee that their human rights are also included in the final settlement," Sian Jones, Amnesty International's researcher on Kosovo said.

The full text of the Amnesty International press release is available at <http://news.amnesty.org/index/EN-GEUR700092006>.

NGO flash news

NGO Anticorruption Network Reacts to Kosovo Energy Situation

Through an open letter to Kosovo citizens and the Parliament, on August 3 "Organization for Democracy, Anticorruption and Dignity - Çohu" and the NGO Anticorruption Network reacted to the grave energy situation in Kosovo as well as other problems affecting public life. The letter was distributed

with a list containing the names and qualifications of the Kosovo government cabinet members to show the members' competence and professional qualifications for carrying out the work with which the cabinet has been charged.

The full letter can be read at <http://www.cohu.org/Keku.htm>



NGO announcement

Youth Initiative for Human Rights Offers Internships for Students

The Youth Initiative for Human Rights (YIHR) in Prishtina has announced internships available for students and recent graduates during August - October 2006. Interns will gain diverse experience while working at YIHR, engaging in a variety of activities while contribu-

ting to general office tasks. Through their work, interns will have opportunities to gain knowledge about human rights and advocacy issues; acquire and further put into practice the knowledge they have acquired during their studies or professional careers; and have the op-

portunity to attend different events as well as make new contacts.

For descriptions of general requirements, duties and responsibilities, the duration of internships and application instructions, call: 038 244 517 or email: ksof-fice@yihhr.org

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