

Welcome to Plementina

Originalversion mit englischen Untertiteln
Plementina Youth Video Project 2003; 15 Minuten

Kontakte

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Inhalt

Der Film wurde vom Australier Kieran D'Arcy zusammen mit Roma-Jugendlichen aus Plementina realisiert und erzählt vom Leben und den Hoffnungen der Roma im Dorf.

Australian volunteer Kieran D'Arcy led a Roma youth workshop making a 15-minute video elegy on their lives in Plementina. It explores daily life, particularly education, dance and music, youth activities, and difficulties they face. The film was used as part of UNHCR's World Refugee Day Program in Kosovo and has been shown at a variety of conferences.

Vertiefende Informationen zu Plementina

Serbia and Montenegro: Leaving Plementina (December 16, 2005)

Date: 13 Dec 2005

MALISHEVO, Kosovo, December 13 (UNHCR) – Ukë and Sabile Krasniqi have been waiting six long years for this day to come. The middle-aged Roma couple are finally realizing their dream of having a home of their own, where they can raise their large family of eight children.

Last month they left Plementina, a camp set up in 1999 to provide emergency accommodation to some 1,300 displaced people belonging to Kosovo's minorities, which include Serbs, Roma, Ashkaelia, "Egyptians", and others.

The couple walked towards the newly-built apartment block in Malishevo (known as Malisheva in Albanian) that was about to become their new home, closely observing their surroundings, and the building itself. On the way, they greeted former neighbours, friends and acquaintances, many of whom they had not seen in years. After receiving the keys from the Head of the Municipal Assembly, they opened the door to a small first-floor apartment with two bedrooms, a kitchen, bathroom, and a balcony.

The whole apartment measures only 60 square metres. Not a lot of room for such a big family, which also includes Ukë's elderly mother. The Krasniqis, however, were not complaining. When asked how he felt about returning to his hometown, Ukë could only mutter, "Now I am happy."

Sabile, his wife, was more expressive: "My children will grow up as others, in normal conditions. They will continue their education here, and they will have space to learn," she said, clearly overjoyed.

Following a crackdown by the Serbian authorities in 1999, more than 900,000 ethnic Albanians were forced to flee Kosovo, only to return a few months later in the wake of a major military intervention by NATO. The exodus of some 200,000 minority Serbs, Roma, Ashkaelia, "Egyptians" and other minorities from Kosovo began within days and continued over the next few months. Although some 14,000 minority displaced people have returned to their homes, there are still more than 20,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Kosovo. Six years after being placed under UN administration, UN-sponsored talks on the future status of the territory began last month, under the chairmanship of former Finnish President Martti Ahtisaari.

In a welcome development, the Kosovo authorities – assisted by UNHCR and others – have taken steps to find housing solutions for the remaining residents of Plementina Camp. With financial support from the European Agency for Reconstruction and the Greek Government, a total of four social housing projects are currently under construction.

The Krasniqis are the first displaced family from Plemetina Camp to benefit from the government's social housing projects. The apartments are for homeless IDPs who return to their areas of origin. They receive a one-time package of three months' food, household goods, firewood and miscellaneous items from UNHCR. Those with properties of their own are helped to repair or reconstruct them.

Kosovo's Minister of Environment and Spatial Planning, Ardian Gjini, remarked during the inauguration of the social housing project in Malishevo: "the beneficiaries of the housing project are people in need, and I congratulate the local authorities in the municipality for the initiative."

Although security and freedom of movement for the Roma population are improving, there are still areas in Kosovo where Roma and other minorities are not welcomed. Ukë's family and another Roma family from Bajë village will live together in the same building with Albanian families, but the protection of all minorities remains a major concern throughout Kosovo.

There are other obstacles facing the people of Kosovo – limited employment opportunities being one of the most serious ones. Before the war, Ukë worked as a blacksmith in Malishevo and also picked grapes for a living, but during his stay in Plemetina Camp he had no job. Both he and his mother received a small allowance each month, but it was not enough to cover all the family's expenses, and assistance from UNHCR – via the Mother Teresa Society – in the form of flour, beans, other staple foods, stoves and wood during the winter was crucial to their survival.

With the departure of families like the Krasniqis, the day when Plemetina Camp is finally shut down grows closer. Thanks to the ongoing social housing projects, and the support and cooperation of the donors, the remaining residents of the camp can also look forward to settling into their new residences – as Ukë and his family have just done – with all the renewed self-esteem and pleasure that come with having a place of one's own.

*By Myrna Brewer Flood and Shpend Halili
In Malishevo, Kosovo*

Source: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

EUROPE'S WHIPPING BOY

Kosovo Gypsies live in fear of Albanian revenge

Source: <http://www.egroups.com/message/decani/26882>

Original Source: (The Globe and Mail)

<http://www.globeandmail.com/gam/International/20000323/UGYPSM.html>

Accessed: 07 April 2000

From: The Globe and Mail, Thursday, March 23, 2000

Accused by ethnic Albanians of collaborating with the Serbs during last spring's violence, as many as 80,000 Roma have been forced to flee their homes.

MARCUS GEE

Pristina, Yugoslavia -- Europe's ultimate outcasts, Gypsies, are used to being made the whipping boy when things go wrong. So it is with fatalism, rather than surprise, that Nasser Adiqi faces what has happened to the Gypsies of Kosovo since the end of NATO's bombing campaign last year.

"We have always been second-class citizens," he said.

Until last spring, Mr. Adiqi was a schoolteacher in the Gypsy community in the town of Kosovo Polje. Now, he presides over a squalid refugee camp in Plementina, protected night and day by Norwegian troops. No one dares leave the camp for fear of being beaten or even killed. So it is for Gypsies all over Kosovo. When hundreds of thousands of ethnic Albanians flooded back into Kosovo at the end of the campaign by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization in June, the Gypsies were caught up in a wave of revenge attacks as the ethnic Albanians settled scores for what had happened during the bombing.

The main victims were ethnic Serbs. More than 100'000 have been forced to flee since last year, and the remainder huddle in isolated enclaves protected by international troops.

But other minorities have suffered just as much. Hundreds, perhaps thousands, of Muslim Slavs have been forced to flee, despite their religious links to the ethnic Albanians, most of whom are Muslims. Kosovo's small Croatian community also lives in fear.

But perhaps the saddest case is that of the Gypsies. When the Serbs ran Kosovo, they were persecuted and abused. Now, they are suffering the same treatment at the hands of the victorious ethnic Albanians.

Accused by the ethnic Albanians of collaborating with the Serbs during last spring's violence, as many as 80,000 have been forced to flee their homes. Many have left Kosovo, and most of those who remain live in refugee camps or in fear-filled enclaves.

Paul Polansky, the U.S. author of several books on Europe's Gypsies, said that only 30,000 of the 150,000 who lived in Kosovo before the war remain in their homes. After travelling around Kosovo late last year to gauge the state of the Gypsy community, he estimated that 14,000 Gypsy homes had been burned down as part of what he called "a systematic cleansing" of the community.

The violence continues. In the town of Djakovica, a besieged community of 7,000 Gypsies (or Roma, as some prefer to be called) is under 24-hour protection from international troops after a series of grenade attacks. In January, two Gypsy men were slain while standing guard outside a house after an arson attack.

Earlier, in Kosovo Polje, a Gypsy father was kicked and stoned while trying to take his son to hospital.

Mr. Adiqi and his group have been relatively lucky, if that is the right word for people who have lost their homes and possessions. Located in a muddy field under the imposing smokestacks of a big power plant, their camp is far enough from the nearest ethnic Albanian community to deter any attacks.

But many people in the camp have awful stories to tell. Ardiana Statovci, 17, spent the 11 weeks of the war in the same way that her ethnic Albanian neighbours did: hiding in her apartment while Serb paramilitaries rampaged through the streets outside.

But when the war ended, a group of men dressed in the uniform of the Kosovo Liberation Army, the ethnic Albanian guerrilla group, banged on the door of her Pristina apartment and accused her of collaborating with the Serbs. When she denied it, one of them hit her with his rifle butt. She still has the scar on her forehead.

When she went out to go to the hospital, some Albanian youths on the streets said: "Hey, Gypsy girl. Come over here. Why did you help the Serbs steal from us?"

Then they beat her up.

Straggling home from the attack, she was accosted and beaten by a second, separate group who made the same accusation.

A few days later, she joined a group of 1'000 Gypsies that fled Pristina at 4 a.m. and walked through the rest of the night to Kosovo Polje. Now, she helps Mr. Adiqi run the camp for 800 Gypsies at Plementina, a half-hour drive north of Pristina.

But her troubles are not over. She has not seen her mother and three younger brothers since they left Pristina at the start of the war, headed for Macedonia. Her soft, brown eyes fill with tears when she thinks of what might have happened to them.

Things in the Plementina camp are safer than in most Gypsy enclaves. Physical conditions are relatively good. New barracks-like buildings with concrete floors and steel frames are springing up, built with the help of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

But none of the 800 residents is bold enough to venture outside, even to walk down the road for groceries. Refugee groups bring in all their supplies.

"We are prisoners here," said Mr. Adiqi, a sober man with a day's growth of beard who draws on a U.S. cigarette. "Who knows when we will ever go home."