READMISSION AND HUMAN RIGHTS

By signing the Agreement on readmission by the Government of the Republics of Serbia and Montenegro in the period from 2000 to 2003, and with the European Union in 2007, there was opened a possibility of its citizens return, people without citizenship and the citizens of the third countries not having legal residence in the countries the agreements had been signed with. After signing the agreement the process of return started, so that in the period from 2000 to 2006, about 50,000 returnees returned to the area of Sandzak, out of whom 98% are the members of national minorities 85% Bosnjaks 10% Romas, Gorans........

Until recently nobody has dealt by the problems of these people. Until recently these people haven’t been proffered any assistance by the state or local institutions. Association of returnees „Reintegration“, founded in 2004, and an advisor for the returnees matters, being taught by his own experience, initiated a research which first phase was statistical questionnaires with a lot of information (personal data, family status, education, occupation, social status, state and city he had been staying in, year of going and year of return from abroad, etc.)

The research enlightens the difficult situation of the returnees from many aspects. During statistical processing we noticed many problems like: renewing personal identification documentation, verification of diplomas, certificates, disclaim of some Secondary schools diplomas to the returnees children. Unemployment among the returnees is extremely high and their children education is under the level of acceptable. Violation of ther returnees’ rights are not visible in the public. Besides some NGOs activities there is no sytematic and organized approach to their problems solution.

A strategy draft being financed by the Office of European Union in Skoplje Maru, was not accepted by the state, as well as any other programme for returnees. That very fact influences lack of data except the ones being possessed by „Reintegration“

An analysis of returnees status according to „Reintegration“ terrain researches results

Education

Terrain experience show the returnees families children have most difficulties in orientation in a new area. Many families haven’t brought their documents with them, including school certificates, and without a verified certificate they can’t continue education or get marks for the end of a school year. The families which had taken
certificates with them or managed to get the same from Germany, faced expensive, complicated and long procedures of verification of those certificates and diplomas by the competent institutions.

Apart from many documents that should have been handed over and expensive fees there were also necessary expensive translations by the authorized interpreters – what created big expenditures to the families which are mainly poor.

The children were being brought back in the middle of a school year, what was an extra problem, losing one school year.

Unfortunately 250 returnees` children, for all the obstacles, haven`t completed Primary schools in Novi Pazar.

Alma S. Was in the third grade in Germany and she was returned during the school year, in March, so she wasn`t able to continue her education. The family was deported in 2005. not taking the school certificates. When „Reintegration“ found out about it it included her into complementary teaching. She continued her education in September, but she was excluded from further teaching process since her parents haven`t verified the certificates. Alma hasn`t continued education, now it is late for her since she outgrew her generation and has to wait for completing Primary education in the rank of adults.

The similar situation happened with other 250 children without Primary education. That`s the number we have found about until now.

The children who managed to overcome the obstacles and continue their teaching process still face big problems and it is ignorance of their mother tongue and alphabet in Serbia. Such a way they are not able to attend teaching lessons, they make long breaks and some of them give up further education. One of the problems the children complain about is a different and too large school curriculum. The problem with Roma children occurred since they also don`t speak their mother tongue. Many children have problems in education or they can`t attend schools for the poverty of their families. Such families can`t afford buying necessary books. Ministry of Education hasn`t obliged schools to perform a complementary teaching for the children being ignorant of the language and having difficulties in mastering school programmes and they are not free of paying fees.

**Employment**

In the results of our researches it had been affirmed that no returnee in the Municipalities of Novi Pazar, Tutin, Sjenica was brought back to the job he had performed before departure, so that unemployment among the returnees is extremely high. A returnee is not able to register with the National Employment Agency right after returning, since he needs at least 6 months for renewing documentation.

Few returnees finds the only source of earnings in „grey economy“ – without protected rights regarding employment, without social and health care.

Seeking a job one returnee stated with resignation there is nothing to do here. The most endangered are self supporting mothers, as it is a case with a returnee J.S. who in a new-created situation committed suicide. Self supporting J.S. could implement the right of social care, she couldn`t find a job, and along with that, health insurance, she couldn`t provide a contract on residence, since she had been staying in an abandoned house. J.S.
Didn’t find an understanding by the system institutions. Besides her regular noticing with the National Employment Agency she couldn’t get a job.

Accommodation

According to our data most returnees faces the problem of accommodation after return. Simply said, many of the returnees have no place to stay in after the return. Some of them find temporary accommodation with their relatives and friends, and later they are becoming subtenants in the conditions highly under the normal standards of living. Besides the rest, such an example is also present with a selfsupporting mother S.D. from Novi Pazar who has spent 9 years in the Netherlands. She had been deported with her three children in January 2005. without any real estates, solved matter of accommodation and without local authorities support. Being invited by a returnee that she had met in the Netherlands she moved to Rozaje, where she lives as a subtenant in an old house. Centre for Social Work doesn’t have capacities for a temporary accommodation, and in the region of Sandzak there are no flats, so that there is not a collective accommodation. In the villages of Sjeverin and Kukurovici, near Priboj, as it has been known, many Bosnjaks died, and the ones running away didn’t have anywhere to return, since their houses haven’t been renewed. In Priboj the returnees have slept in the streets. Centre for Social Work and the Municipality didn’t bear any responsibility, so those returnees had to travel to their relatives in Sarajevo, what was covered by news media. The interviewed returnees who became subtenants complain about hard earning the money to pay rent fees, so many members of a family must live in a small space.

Health Care

According to our research in the municipalities of Novi Pazar, Sjenica, Tutin many returnees don’t have the right on health care for the lack of appropriate documents. The very procedure of health care implementation is long and complicated. In order to implement the right on health care they should register with the National Employment Agency, and they should have: residence evidence, citizenship, vital statistics book of born paper, personal card identity, confirmation about a joint house, earnings. It particularly affects the returnees who need urgent medical care. In that group especially endangered are women whose state is defined like trauma of return. K.I. (Bosnjak nationality) returnee have stayed in Germany for 12 years. His two sons left mother country with age of 6 and 7 years and attended there proper schools. They got sick in Germany and right after that they were deported to Serbia. It happened in the middle of the school year. Their drama hasn’t stopped there, since, in spite of hard disease, they couldn’t manage getting health insurance or necessary medical care, so their health condition got worse and now Esnaf and Ernad are on dyalysis. Especially big problem is with the people suffering from diseases for which they can’t get the same therapy in Serbia like the one abroad. Many questioned people said their health conditions got worse for the very deportation and for bad living circumstances they were met with after return. For their difficult economic status and poverty many returnees don’t have money to buy the necessary medicines.
Pensions

The people who exiled from Kosovo in 1999 to the West European countries and were brought back to Kosovo by readmission, from where they moved to Novi Pazar, have no right on pension they had acquired before 1999. A spoken explanation that they had been given and that we got from Pension Insurance was they should have noticed themselves until 2001.

Besides the rest, we made evidence of M.A. case who acquired her pension in 1990 in Novi Pazar Hospital, she is of Bosnjak nationality, later she had residence in Urosevac, where she was affected by the Kosovo ongoings, and now she has no right on pension. Unfortunately, our remark is that the reason of non implementation of pension is perhaps their surnames end in letter ić.

Conclusion

Terrain researches by „Reintegration“ showed that conditions, under which the citizens return to the country that they left temporarily and in which they are trying to start new lives, are more than difficult. There are no measures of their reintegration protection, and in the contracts on readmission there are no guarantees in terms of their caring for. Although the returnees mutually differ for their nationalities, ages, education, what is common to all of them is a hard economic and social situation and lack of support by the system institutions in the process of reintegration. The very process of deportation had been experienced by many of them as a humiliation and trauma, and after getting to the country of origin they face insurmountable obstacles on the way to reintegration, so many of them have wish to go back to a West European country.

Association of returnees „Reintegration“ sent a draft of plan action for solution the returnees problems to the competent ministries in January 2005. That draft suggested:

1. Elaboration of an adequate mechanism in inter-field cooperation
2. Legally regulation of the designated goal
3. Training of all the services for the regulation application
4. Perorming a new mechanism
5. Formation of campaigns for returnees in relation to legal acts, registration and personal identification documentation
6. Creation of data base on the basis of questionnaire
7. Establishing a registration office for returnees
8. Making a decision by the Government of Serbia by which the returnees will be free of customs fees and other fees for the goods for personal use
9. Setting free them of paying administrative taxes
10. Delivering instructions to the centres of social work in relation to solution the problems of returnees
11. Delivering instructions to schools for a compulsory registration of the returnees children
12. Donošenje upustava školama za obavezan upis dece povratnika;
13. School documents verification
14. Assistance in providing school documents from abroad
15. Action plan for returnees’ education
16. Planned measures for returnees
17. Info-campaigns on organized assistance to returnees
18. Guide for returnees
19. Proffering material aid for adaptation and self-building
20. Organizing accommodation for returnees-homeless
21. Passing Law on social accommodation with the measures for socially endangered returnees
22. Passing Law on health care of people in specific circumstances
23. Creating instructions for performance regulations of Law on health care about healing particular categories of people
24. Formation of a team for making instructions (Serbia and countries signers)
25. Approach to the measures from action plan for employment of returnees

This draft of association of returnees „Reintegration“ hasn’t been answered until now, nor the current authorities did anything in favour of returnees

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