



Kosovo

Poisoned by Lead

A Health and Human Rights Crisis in Mitrovica's Roma Camps

HUMAN
RIGHTS
WATCH

HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH
350 Fifth Avenue, 34th Floor
New York, NY 10118-3299

www.hrw.org

H U M A N
R I G H T S
W A T C H

Poisoned by Lead

A Health and Human Rights Crisis in Mitrovica's Roma Camps

In June 1999 the Roma neighborhood of the city of Mitrovica, in the north of Kosovo, was attacked by ethnic Albanians and burned to the ground. Its 8,000 inhabitants were left homeless and displaced. Many were resettled by Kosovo's United Nations administration in camps in a heavily contaminated location close to a defunct lead mine. The move was supposed to be temporary.

A decade on, Roma families are still in the camps next to the mine's toxic slag heaps, in dreadful living conditions. Some have serious lead poisoning. *Kosovo: Poisoned by Lead* recounts a decade of failure by the UN and others to provide adequate housing, medical treatment, and viable long-term solutions for the Mitrovica Roma, and makes detailed recommendations for how to end the crisis.

A displaced Roma woman stands outside her makeshift house in the Cesmin Lug camp.

© 2007 Getty Images

