

BBC NEWS

Thursday, 8 August, 2002

UN rapped over Kosovo mental homes

A leading disability rights group has criticised the United Nations for the poor quality of its mental health clinics in Kosovo.

The report by the US-based Mental Disability Rights International group said patients at the clinics, which were taken over by the UN in 1999, are victims of gross physical violence, rape, sexual exploitation and neglect.

The MDRI executive director Eric Rosenthal accused the United Nations Mission in Kosovo of violating the very human rights which the UN worked to uphold around the world.

The United Nations took over three mental health clinics as part of its mission to the Balkan province known as UNMIK.

A UN official said the mission was aware of the abuses, but blamed lack of resources.