

WORLD & NATION

Refugees

Continued from page 1

women and children were herded onto a train for the passage to the border.

The grandmother's 43-year-old daughter was too weak to walk to the triage center Northwest Medical set up in an abandoned factory in Skoder, home to 7,000 refugees. Some of the children were too dehydrated from diarrhea and vomiting to wait in line. Medical teams will go to them.

"These people have suffered terribly," said Barnham. "People must know about what is happening here."

With her paramedic-trained husband, she is helping stabilize the traumatized refugees as they wander down from the border. The most urgent cases are sent to the local hospital to be treated by Albanian doctors.

Barnham, her husband and other volunteers provide urgent medical care until the refugees can be sent on trains to camps farther south, near Tirana, the capital, to make room for the thousands more refugees expected as the Serbs continue their brutal policy of expelling ethnic Albanians from Kosovo.

"I've been doing this for 20 years, but this still overwhelms me," Barnham, wiping her eyes, said in an interview.



Reuters/CNS

An ethnic Albanian refugee woman holds her child in front of a tent bearing its temporary address at the Stankovic refugee camp May 25.

In another part of the grimy room, nurse Donna Armstrong of Seattle said many of the refugees she is seeing are suffering from "big time" post-traumatic stress.

"Many are going into shells, with children displaying blank looks," she said. "Some want to talk about their experience;

it's the ones who are silent who scare us."

Nurses and doctors are seeing every kind of illness imaginable coming through the camps, many acute, chronic or terminal. Many refugees have tuberculosis. Many are suffering from dental disorders that cause sore throats and respiratory problems, Armstrong added.

There is a need for more intravenous supplies to deal with the dehydration and toothbrushes and toothpaste, she told Dave Farquahr, an administrator with Northwest Medical Teams.

Several tons of toothbrushes and toothpaste are en route to the camp; Farquahr told the relieved nurse, compliments of the Oregon Catholic community.

The 158,000 pounds of medical supplies, hygiene kits and blankets donated by Providence Health System and Western Oregon Catholic parishes were transported free of charge to Europe from Portland by Evergreen International Aviation of McMinnville. The supplies were valued at more than \$1.1 million.

Third-year medical student Gjakova Radoniqi, 29, of Pristina, Kosovo, arrived at the abandoned, factory-turned-refugee camp in Skoder with his pregnant wife and 18-month-old daughter, also forced from their home by Serb troops.

Fluent in English, Radoniqi is translating for Northwest Medical Teams while he

awaits word of his extended family. His parents remain in Kosovo, their fate unknown.

Hundreds of refugee camps are proliferating in Albania, with more to come.

Volunteers from local churches work round the clock to feed the refugees bread, cheese and eggs. They have been here for five weeks.

Agim Hajdari, 15, said police came to his family's home in Pristina one night wearing masks and carrying guns. "They told us we had 10 minutes to leave or they would kill all of us," he recalled.

They were taken to the train station and shipped to neighboring Macedonia, a breakaway republic of the former Yugoslavia.

Albania is barely able to care for its own 3.3 million people, much less the nearly 900,000 refugees who have streamed over the mountainous border into this country, which is about the size of Maryland.

CFC welcomes family

The Catholic Family Center's Refugee & Immigration Services expected the first seven of an estimated 50 or more Kosovar refugees to arrive in Rochester May 25 — after the *Courier's* deadline.

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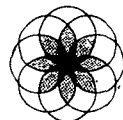
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