General Information

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Description
Thousands of refugees fleeing Kosovo overwhelm camps in Albania, Europe's most impoverished country.

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Citation
Transcript

Mass Exodus of Refugees From Kosovo Causes Problems for Albania

BRIGITTE QUINN, anchor:
The flight from Kosovo is causing new problems in neighboring Albania as that nation tries to cope with the more than 365,000 refugees who are already seeking asylum. NBC’s Ned Colt has that story from the Albanian capital, Tirana.

NED COLT reporting:
Refugees reaching the safety of the capital, Tirana, are finding relatives, but not a home. The refugees have increased the population of Europe's most impoverished nation by more than 10 percent in three weeks. Even here, they're being turned away. This family has been on the road for a week. They say the camps are full.

Unidentified Woman: We cannot find a place to sleep, just in the roads.

COLT: Still, the United Nations says the refugees must move from northern Albania. Not only is it dangerous with recent cross-border shelling...

Ms. ARIANE QUENTIER (UNHCR): And it's just too many--there are too many people for such a little area. In terms of--in terms of health, in terms of distribution, in terms of housing, it is just simply not suitable.

COLT: There are now dozens of camps in central Albania. Many are being expanded to cope with the influx, but it's not enough. Thousands are living on the road. Many of the refugees are turned away and told to keep heading south. It's a mass migration with no end in sight. Ned Colt, NBC News, Tirana.