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# ERTF Update

12/2007

24.05.07

## Political Developments

### European Roma and Travellers Forum

#### **President of the European Roma and Travellers Forum calls Statements of Romanian President Unacceptable**

Strasbourg, 23 May 2007. The president of the European Roma and Travellers Forum, Rudko Kawczynski, strongly condemned statements by the Romanian president, Traian Basescu, calling a Romanian journalist “stinky Gypsy”. “I am utmost shocked if the president of a state which has just joined the European Union issues such kind of comments testifying from deep-seated prejudices against Roma,” the president of the Strasbourg-based organisation said, adding that it does not make any difference whether the statements were made in public or private.

“Mr Basescu represents the highest level of the Romanian state. As such he has to incarnate the highest principles of human rights and moral values. He has also to defend and represent the interests of all Romanian citizens including Roma,” Kawczynski said. “It is therefore unacceptable if he issues such kind of statements, and he should apologize to all Roma.”

Kawczynski said that his organisation strongly supports the initiative of Romanian Roma organisations to raise the case with the Romanian Ombudsman. “Taking legal action is one possible and sometimes necessary way of combating anti-Gypsyism, but in the long-run changes need to come from the education system which needs to teach the majority tolerance and respect for the others.”

On 1 January 2007, Romania together with Bulgaria, joined the European Union. In its last monitoring report, the European Commission noted that the situation of Roma has generally

improved, but that a number of outstanding issues remained. In particular, the Commission urged for further efforts were necessary to combat racism, discrimination concerning all minorities, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance.

With more than 2,5 million Roma, Romania has the biggest Roma population of Europe. The wave of new asylum applications from Romanian Roma which has followed Romania's accession to the EU testifies the persistence of anti-Roma racism and discrimination. "Nobody leaves his country voluntarily," the president of the European Roma and Travellers Forum concluded.

Source: ERTF Press Release

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### **ERTF at MG-S-ROM meeting**

Several representatives of the European Roma and Travellers Forum took part in the 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Council of Europe Expert Group on Roma and Travellers which was held in Strasbourg from 21 to 22 May 2007.

The Czech representative to the Forum and member of the ERTF executive board, Ondrej Gina, highlighted the housing problems of Roma in his country and referred to the decision of the mayor of Vsetin to evict Roma from the city.

ERTF UK delegate and representative of the UK Association of Gypsy Women addressed the issue of campsites for Roma and Travellers and informed about problems faced by Roma in the UK, France and Luxembourg.

Forum's Chief Executive Officer, Karin Waringo, briefed the participants about the situation of Roma refugees from the Former Yugoslavia. At the end of the meeting the participants agreed to set up a working group with the task of updating MG-S-ROM's position on Roma refugees from the Balkans.

Other topics which were addressed during the meeting were education and employment. Romani women from the Czech Republic gave a testimony of forced sterilisations of Romani women in that country. A photo exhibition realised by victims of forced sterilisations was presented at the meeting.

For the first time in years, the MG-S-ROM meeting was held without a simultaneous interpretation into Romani language. The European Roma and Travellers Forum expressed its strong disapproval against this decision which prevented many Roma participants from taking an active part in the meeting.

Members of the MG-S-ROM shared the view of the Forum that Romani language should be reintroduced as a working language of this Committee and the Chair of the MG-S-ROM will alert the Committee of Ministers about this important issue. He thanked the secretariat of the ERTF for having provided interpretation into Romani language on a voluntary basis on several occasions during the meeting.

ERTF's submissions can be obtained from the Secretariat of the organisation.

ERTF

## International Organisations

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### Council of Europe

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#### Charter for Regional or Minority Languages

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##### **European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages: new report on application in Norway**

The Council of Europe Committee of Ministers has made public the third report on the situation of minority languages in Norway:

[http://www.coe.int/t/e/legal\\_affairs/local\\_and\\_regional\\_democracy/regional\\_or\\_minority\\_languages/2\\_monitoring/2.3\\_Committee\\_of\\_Experts%27\\_Reports/Norway\\_3rd\\_report.pdf](http://www.coe.int/t/e/legal_affairs/local_and_regional_democracy/regional_or_minority_languages/2_monitoring/2.3_Committee_of_Experts%27_Reports/Norway_3rd_report.pdf)

On the basis of this report, the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers urges Norway to protect and promote the Kven language by adopting policies for standardising and improving the teaching of the language and increasing its use in public life. The Norwegian Government is also encouraged to step up its efforts to protect other languages, such as Sami, Romani and Romanes, in fields such as education and social and health care.

This report has been drawn up by a committee of independent experts which monitors the application of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages.

The regional or minority languages protected under the Charter in Norway are Sami, Kven, Romani and Romanes.

Source: CoE Press Release

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### Committee of Ministers

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#### **Committee of Ministers concerned about forced returns of Roma to Kosovo**

The chair of the Committee of Ministers has just issued a reply to the written question of Boriss Cilevics, Latvian representative to the PACE, as regards to forcible expulsions of Kosovo Roma refugees from Macedonia. Accordingly, the Committee of Ministers follows the situation in Macedonia and the issue of forced return of Roma to Serbia and Kosovo closely, and the Council of Europe remains greatly concerned about the risk of violation of fundamental rights and freedoms which may arise in the context of forced return.

The Chair of the Committee of Ministers shared the concerns of the European Roma and Travellers Forum as regards to eventual forced returns of Roma refugees from Kosovo whose case is still unsettled as well as regards to the situation in Macedonia where only a few Kosovo Roma have been granted asylum on the basis of the 1951 Geneva Convention.

He reminded of the relevant Committee of Ministers recommendations and guidelines issued and informed about the organisation of a conference by the Serbian parliament in October where this issue will also be addressed.

The full text of the reply is available at:

<http://wcd.coe.int/com.instranet.InstraServlet?Index=no&Command=com.instranet.CmdBlobGet&DocId=1106942&SecMode=1&Admin=0&Usage=4&InstranetImage=155064>

**Czech Roma women testify to forced sterilization**

21 May 2007

STRASBOURG, France -- *Two Roma women from the Czech Republic attending a Council of Europe meeting in Strasbourg Monday described in emotional detail how they had been sterilized against their will in Czech hospitals.*

Helena Baloghova and Elena Gorolova gave moving testimony as they presented a photographic exhibition created by an association of women victims of forced sterilization.

Baloghova, 46, told the experts how right after she gave birth to her fourth son a doctor had told her she would never have the girl she had wanted.

"When the doctor told me about the sterilization I actually thought he was talking about the postpartum exam I was undergoing," she said.

They were speaking on the sidelines of a Council meeting of Roma experts.

The group, to which Baloghova and Gorolova belong, based in the northeastern Czech town of Ostrava, is calling for compensation and a public apology for illegal sterilizations of Roma patients.

A Czech expert at the Strasbourg meeting said the problem of the sterilized women remained unresolved since the Czech government had yet to review ombudsman Otakar Motejl's conclusions on the subject.

In a report published in 2005, Motejl said at least 50 Czech women, mainly Roma, had been illegally sterilized over the past 30 years.

The women's files did not contain all the necessary consent forms showing the patient had been properly informed about the procedure, said the report. But it stopped short of concluding the women had been victims of eugenic policies.

In November 2005, a Czech court ordered a hospital to apologize to 22-year-old Roma woman Helena Ferencikova for sterilizing her without her consent, but it ruled she did not qualify for compensation.

Source: AFP/Middle East Times

<http://www.metimes.com/storyview.php?StoryID=20070521-021639-9437r>

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**Europarat: Kein Geld, aber Interesse an Minderheitenrecht**

24. Mai 2007

TALLINN - Der Beirat der Föderalistischen Union Europäischer Volksgruppen (FUEV) pflegt den zivilgesellschaftlichen Dialog. In diesem Gremium treffen sich Vertreter von Parteien und regionalen Regierungen aus Minderheitengebieten.

»In kleinen regionalen Seminaren werden wir uns mit den dortigen Minderheiten befassen«, sagte der Vorsitzende des FUEV-Beirats, Ministerialrat Dr. Detlev Rein,

Bundesinnenministerium, Bonn, auf dem 52. FUEV-Nationalitätenkongress in Tallinn. Die Deutschsprachige Gemeinschaft in Belgien habe zu einem solchen Seminar im Herbst d. J. eingeladen. »Wir nehmen gern weitere Einladungen zu Seminaren entgegen.«

In dem vom FUEV-Beirat geführten Dialog gehe es auch um internationale Rechtssätze, die von den Staaten eingehalten werden müssten und die die Minderheiten betreffen. Rein verdeutlichte dieses an der Rolle des Europarates, Straßburg. »Der Europarat hat kein Geld, aber ein großes Interesse an Minderheitenrechten.«

Rein nannte fünf Komplexe bzw. europäische Übereinkommen, die der Europarat begründet hat und die für Minderheiten bzw. Volksgruppen von Bedeutung sind. Das Rahmenübereinkommen zum Schutz nationaler Minderheiten sei inzwischen von 39 Mitgliedsstaaten des Europarates ratifiziert. Acht Europarat-Mitgliedsstaaten fehlen noch. Der Beratende Ausschuss sei hier das wichtigste Gremium. Er überprüft in den Ratifikationsstaaten alle fünf Jahre, ob die im Übereinkommen genannten Bestimmungen eingehalten werden.

Die Europäische Charta der Regional- oder Minderheitenstaaten sei inzwischen von 22 Mitgliedsstaaten des Europarates ratifiziert, berichtete Rein. Die Ratifikationsstaaten hätten mindestens drei der insgesamt 35 Pakete der Charta zu übernehmen. »Die Charta ist sehr anspruchsvoll«, betonte Rein. »Weil die Sprachenfragen in vielen Bereichen übernommen werden müssen, ist die Umsetzung finanziell sehr aufwendig.« Der Expertenausschuss verlangt von den Ratifikationsstaaten alle drei Jahre einen Bericht und führt vor Ort auch selbst Gespräche.

Das Roma-Forum am Europarat sei von Finnland im Jahre 2002 initiiert worden und seit 2005 aktiv. Es sei als eingetragener Verein nach französischem Recht gegründet. »Das Forum will die Interessen der Roma und Traveller (Reisenden) befördern; es strebt Repräsentativität an«, erläuterte Rein.

Das MGS-ROM, ein Gremium für Migration und Soziales, stellt beim Europarat ein weiteres Element dar. Es gibt Empfehlungen an Mitgliedsstaaten des Europarates.

Das DH-MIN ist ein Expertenkomitee im Europarat auf Ebene der Regierungszusammenarbeit für Fragen zum Schutz der Rechte nationaler Minderheiten. Rein ist stellv. Vorsitzender des DH-MIN. »Das Expertenkomitee soll transversale Fragen fördern«, erläuterte Rein. Darunter seien Fragen des Minderheitenrechtes zu verstehen.

In den Nichtratifizierungsstaaten gibt es abwehrende Positionen - beispielsweise: 1. Wir haben keine Minderheiten, 2. Bei uns steht die Integration im Vordergrund, 3. Unsere Staatsidee verbietet es, Gruppen herauszuheben - , verdeutlichte Rein.

»Es ist daher nicht einfach, gemeinsame Projekte anzureißen«, sagte Rein, wenngleich die große Mehrheit der Europarat-Staaten dem Prinzip des Minderheitenschutzes folge. »Das allgemeine Nichtdiskriminierungsrecht ist von Bedeutung. Darauf verweisen die Staaten. Es reicht für die Minderheiten jedoch oft nicht aus«, bilanzierte der FUEV-Beiratsvorsitzende.

Quelle: Der Nordschleswiger

<http://www.nordschleswiger.dk/SEEEMS/129.asp?artid=7827>

# Reports

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## NGOs

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### Amnesty International

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#### Treatment of Roma acid test for the EU

Amnesty International has just released its world report 2007. In its regional overview on Europe and Central Asia the organisation notices:

“Across the region identity-based discrimination was rife against Roma, who remained largely excluded from public life and unable to enjoy full access to rights such as housing, employment and health services. In some countries the authorities failed to fully integrate Romani children into the education system, tolerating or promoting the creation of special classes or schools, including those where a reduced curriculum was taught. Roma were also among those subjected to hate crimes by individuals, as were Jews and Muslims.”

Amnesty International considers that with its eastwards enlargement the treatment of Roma will be the acid test for the EU of its commitment to equality and non-discrimination and notices that attitudes against Roma remained firmly entrenched from Dublin to Bratislava.

The report is available for download at:

<http://thereport.amnesty.org/eng/Download%20the%20Report>

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## ENAR/ERIO

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#### New fact sheet on Roma political participation

The European Network against Racism (ENAR) together with the European Roma Information Office (ERIO) has issued a new fact sheet on Roma political participation focusing on the participation of Roma in political decision-making at national and local level and highlighting examples of good practice.

The fact sheet can be downloaded from the ENAR website: [http://www.enar-eu.org/en/factsheets/FS32\\_roma\\_political\\_participation\\_may2007.pdf](http://www.enar-eu.org/en/factsheets/FS32_roma_political_participation_may2007.pdf)

# News digest

## Countries

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### Bulgaria

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#### Minority Integration Topic of MEP Election Debate in Bulgaria

15 May 2007

Candidates for members of the European Parliament (MEP) took part in a debate on the representation of minorities in the EP and on integration policies.

Roma in Bulgaria are inseparable part of society and their problems should be seen as problems of the entire union, MEP candidate Petar Filipov from Platform European Socialists said. Introducing minority representation quotas in European institutions is one of the manners to deal with the problem, Filipov said.

Citizens for the European Development of Bulgaria (CEDB) candidate Tatyana Kmetova said that the introduction of such quotas will fail solving the problem. Decentralisation and more opportunities for local governance are needed instead.

Democrats for Strong Bulgaria (DSB) member and MEP candidate Daniel Mitov said that no ethnic or group belonging should be turned into a reason for provision of extra rights. National Movement Simeon II (NMSII) disapproves both positive and negative discrimination when it comes to the minority question, NMSII MEP candidate Nikolai Kirilov said.

Source: Sofia Echo

[http://www.sofiaecho.com/article/minority-integration-topic-of-mep-election-debate-in-bulgaria/id\\_22507/catid\\_68](http://www.sofiaecho.com/article/minority-integration-topic-of-mep-election-debate-in-bulgaria/id_22507/catid_68)

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### Canada

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#### Gypsies lose right to stay in Canada

15 May 2007

The first round of deportation hearings for a band of self-proclaimed Romanian Gypsies convicted of swarming thefts -- including a teen who gave birth to a baby girl behind bars -- begins today.

Herald sources confirm the group has lost its plea for asylum and will be deported within weeks.

They have agreed to be sent back to their native Romania as their jail sentences near their end in the coming days.

Viorel Chiciu, 25, and his wife, Ancuta Sardaru, 20 -- part of a band that applied for asylum in Montreal last year -- are the first two of six to undergo 48-hour detention review hearings. Luliana Boana, 19, gave birth in jail recently while serving her theft sentence for fanning her scarf to disguise others as they snuck off with a store safe.

While the infant is automatically a Canadian citizen, her mother is soon facing deportation to Romania. "She's a healthy baby girl," a source close to the case told the Herald.

The Gypsies were sentenced to several months behind bars following guilty pleas to two counts each of theft, after admitting to well-choreographed swarming thefts of family-owned liquor stores.

Lucian Poenaru, 24, and his wife, Aurora Ciuciu, 19; Ileana Miclescu, 38, and Chiciu and his wife were captured on video surveillance at two Calgary stores in January.

A judge sentenced all of the offenders, who pleaded guilty on March 2, to two counts each of theft, to three months in jail on top of double credit for two months spent in custody since their arrests Jan. 12.

Two of them were given an extra month in jail -- one for breaking and entering in another incident, and the other for involving a youth in the thefts. A 17-year-old young offender is still before the courts.

Store surveillance video revealed the astonishing swarming scam. While the swirling skirts, flapping shawls and lively conversation of up to nine people distracted clerks, others spirited a safe out the front door undetected. No weapons were ever used.

After being caught by police near McKnight Boulevard, they admitted to stealing a safe containing about \$12,000 from Lee's Liquor Store on Jan. 9, and stealing \$1,500 cash and a \$300 pair of Armani sunglasses from an unlocked filing cabinet at Bridgeland Liquor Store the next day.

Some members of the group are suspected of similar thefts in Mexico, the United States, Vancouver, Winnipeg and Toronto.

Lisa White, spokeswoman for the Canadian Border Services Agency, has said the agency can't begin enforcement until the subjects have been released from jail, and only if no other jurisdictions are pursuing charges.

Sherri Zickefoose

Source: The Calgary Herald

<http://www.canada.com/vancouver/sun/story.html?id=a20eb4db-9ff7-4c6a-beb0-9ed6166de5c8&k=44952>

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## **Czech Republic**

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### **Czech National Party head's Words on Romanies no crime, police say**

15 May 2007

Petra Edelmannova, head of the ultra-right Czech National Party (NS), did not commit a crime by her words on Romanies released on the party's website after a rally in support of Deputy PM Jiri Cunek (Christian Democrats, KDU-CSL, chairman), the police organised crime squad (UOOZ) and the state attorney's office ruled, UOOZ spokeswoman Blanka Kosinova told CTK today.

In April, Edelmannova took part in a demonstration condemning Cunek's abusive words on Romanies held outside the Government Office. Cunek, who is also accused of corruption, raised uproar among Romanies by his controversial statements in the tabloid Blesk where he talked about "sunburned" people "who put up fires on town squares."

After the demonstration, the NS press section released text and commentaries describing Edelmanna's participation in the rally and her comments on other participants. In her commentaries, Edelmanna called Romanies Gypsies. She even talked about the "final solution to the Gypsy question" and promised support for those Romanies who would leave the Czech Republic.

"The police of the Czech Republic are not authorised to assess statements by individual political entities and ethics of their public behaviour," said Kosinova. Both the police and the attorney based their decision on an expert opinion by political analyst Zdenek Zboril. He told CTK previously that some of Edelmanna's words can be considered disputable, but they do not differ from other statements published in the Czech press and pronounced by Czech politicians, including the government members.

According to Zboril, the most controversial words concern the extra-parliamentary NS's active support for the Romanies who would like to leave the Czech Republic, which can be qualified as an appeal for expulsion or re-settlement. However, Zboril pointed out that this statement had its precedent in the relocation of Romanies from Vsetin, north Moravia, to other areas in the Czech Republic, initiated by Cunek when he was Mayor of Vsetin.

The police and the attorney concluded that the statements by Edelmanna do not apply to the whole ethnic group, but to individual Romany activists, and consequently they cannot be qualified as a crime of defamation of race, nation and conviction.

Source: Prague Daily Monitor

<http://www.praguemonitor.com/>

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## **Nationalists disturb act markin Czech Romany wartime victims**

13 may 2007

Five members of the far-right Czech National Party (NS) disturbed a commemorative event marking the victims of the wartime Nazi internment camp for Czech Romanies in Lety today. Nationalists got into a verbal clash with the organisers. The police interfered and expelled the nationalists from the place.

During a mass, the NS members displayed banners recollecting Czech policemen who guarded Romanies in the camp and died of typhoid then. The NS banners included slogans as "300,000 Czech victims of Nazism often without a single memorial," "German labour facility - German responsibility," and "Czech policemen - victims of typhoid epidemic in the labour camp."

The nationalist argued they only wanted to remind of forgotten victims of Nazism. However, participants in the commemorative event, including junior ruling Greens deputy Ondrej Liska, said it was a provocation.

Cenek Ruzicka, chairman of the Committee for Compensation of Romany Holocaust (VPORH), organising today's event, recalled that 326 prisoners, including 240 children, perished in the Lety camp. Part of them died of typhoid, some of hunger, he added. The VPORH has been in the long run demanded that the pig farm in Lety, built on the premises of the wartime camp for Czech Romanies, be removed. Romany activists point out that it defames the victims' memory.

The EP also called on the Czech Republic to remove the pig farm. Foreign Minister Karel Schwarzenberg (for Greens), who took part on today's act of commemoration in Lety, pushed

for the removal of the pig farm as well. "Since it is undignified to have a pig farm at the place where people were dying. No other reason is needed," Schwarzenberg told reporters.

The Czech state negotiated with the AGPI company, owning the pig farm complex, in the past, most recently in 2005 under the Social Democrats (CSSD)-led government, but in vain. The current centre-right government originally also planned to purchase the farm. Though the price was not officially released, speculation emerged that it could amount to hundreds of millions of crowns.

Minister in charge of minority agenda Džamila Stehliková (Greens) said previously that the government would not have finances for the purchase. PM Mirek Topolánek (ODS) confirmed it a month ago. He said that a new memorial should be built next to the pig farm. However, the VPORH opposes the idea.

According to historical documents, some 1,308 Romanians were deported to Lety during WW2, while 326 people perished there and more than 500 of its inmates ended up in the extermination camp in Oswiecim (Auschwitz).

Source: Prague Daily Monitor

<http://www.praguemonitor.com/>

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## **Haushalt unter freiem Himmel**

22. Mai 2007

Feinsäuberlich hängen zwanzig Paar Tennissocken zum Trocknen über dem grünen Geländer am Fuße der Brücke, akkurat im Zwei-Zentimeter-Abstand. Drei Männer hocken in den Eingängen ihrer Zelte und diskutieren. Die Waschschüssel lehnt an der Zeltwand.

Am Ufer des Pariser Canal St. Martin im 10. Arrondissement gehören provisorische Haushalte wie diese auf einer Länge von fast vier Kilometern zum Bild. Es ist die Gegend jener Menschen, deren Heimat ein kleines rotes, grünes oder blaues Igluzelt ist. 250 Zelte baute der Verein "Die Kinder des Don Quichottes" um den Schauspieler Augustin Legrand auf, um Parisern mit Dach über dem Kopf zu zeigen, wie elend ihre Mitmenschen ohne feste Bleibe leben. Das war im Dezember vergangenen Jahres.

Heute, sechs Monate und eine Präsidentschaftswahl später, stehen die Zelte noch immer, wenn auch nicht mehr in langen Reihen wie damals. Einige Strippen sind gerissen. Das Rot, Blau und Grün der schützenden Stoffe leuchtet nicht mehr, aber die Wohnungslosen, die "sans abris", sind geblieben: Roma, Alternative, ältere Männer in zerrissenen Schuhen, die sich an Bierdosen festhalten, Frauen, die mit ihrer kleinen Rente die utopischen Mietpreise in der Seine-Metropole nicht zahlen können.

Sie alle sind ausgegrenzt vom Leben der Menschen entlang dem Kanals, der 1822 auf Wunsch Napoleons I. als Trinkwasserkanal angelegt wurde, aber zugleich auch mittendrin. Dann etwa, wenn die Romafrauen am Quai de Valmy in ihren großen Kochtöpfen Bohnensuppe mit Würsten kochen und die Passanten oben am Geländer stehen bleiben, um einen Blick in die Küche unter freiem Himmel zu werfen. Aus zwölf Zelten haben Roma sich hier ihre Heimat gebaut. Geschützt an den Mauern wohnen die Frauen, die Männer weiter abseits. Seit es wieder fast täglich regnet, haben sie zusätzlich durchsichtige Plastikfolien über ihre Zeltstadt gespannt.

Auf den ersten Blick scheint alles ein schmutziges Durcheinander zu sein. Doch hier herrscht die Ordnung einer anderen, einer improvisierten Welt. Ein wackeliger Holzschrank dient als Aufbewahrungsort für Spülmittel, Konserven, Teller. Die Schuhe stehen vor den Zelten, und einmal am Tag kehrt einer der Männer den Boden vor den Zelten mit einem grasgrünen Besen.

Zwischen Zwiebelnschälen und Brennholznachlegen stillt eine junge Frau mit pechschwarzem, langem Haar ihr Baby. Die Blicke der Vorbeiziehenden stören die Roma längst nicht mehr.

86 500 Menschen sind in Frankreich obdachlos, offiziell. Das Hilfswerk Emmaus, das in den fünfziger Jahren von dem Armenpriester Abbé Pierre gegründet wurde, zählt in seinem jüngsten Jahresbericht dagegen insgesamt 3,2 Millionen "schlecht untergebrachte" Franzosen. In Paris sollen es allein 10 000 bis 12 000 sein. Grund genug für die "Kinder des Don Quichottes" ihre medienwirksame Aktion acht Tage vor Weihnachten 2006, zu starten. In Marseille, Nizza, Orleans, Aix-en-Provence und Toulouse, Rennes und Lyon wurden "Camps der Solidarität" aufgeschlagen. In Paris wählten die Initiatoren bewusst das angesagte Viertel rund um den Kanal, in dem es sich recht hübsch wohnen lässt. Genau hier veröffentlichten sie die "Charta von St. Martin", in der der Verein durchgehende Öffnungszeiten von Notunterkünften, mehr Sozialwohnungen und ein intensives Wiedereingliederungsprogramm für die "sans abris" forderte. Zugleich appellierte er an die "gut Wohnenden", sich mit den Obdachlosen zu solidarisieren und ebenfalls eine Nacht im Zelt zu verbringen. Zwischen 3000 und 5000 Menschen aus der Nachbarschaft bevölkerten damals rund um die Uhr die Kais am Kanal.

Heute, wenn die Sonne die Steine am Kai wärmt, packen die Studenten am Kanal ihr Picknick aus, Salate, Käse, Baguette und Rotwein. Oder sie bestellen ihr Leffe-Bier im Bistro Poisson Rouge und setzen sich direkt ans Wasser. Nur wenige Meter weiter räumt Marie in ihrem Freiluft-Wohnzimmer auf. Die Plastiktüten kommen in den Sack, der Tisch wird abgewischt. Die Wäsche auf den Ständern tropft noch. Vor drei Monaten sei sie hier eingezogen, erzählt Marie. Vorher habe sie fünf Jahre auf der Straße gelebt, nicht nur in Paris. "In Nizza habe ich am Strand geschlafen." 52 Jahre ist sie alt, etwas beleibt, klein. Sie gibt Nicolas Sarkozy die Schuld dafür, dass sie hier leben muss. "Ich hatte doch eine Wohnung", erklärt sie energisch, "sie haben sie mir gestohlen." Der Anwalt, die Kosten, die kleine Rente, die viel zu teuren Mieten - die kleine Frau ereifert sich. Aber das Zelt sei gut, es sei frei gewesen. "Das war mein Glück." Sie lächelt nicht, als sie das sagt. Ihr Zelt liegt auf Holzpaletten, zwei Stühle stehen unter einem knallroten Sonnenschirm.

Am 21. Februar, zwei Monate vor dem ersten Wahldurchgang, hatte die Zeltaktion der Don-Quichotte-Kinder etwas erreicht, wofür Hilfsorganisationen wie die "Médecins du Monde" seit Jahren kämpfen. Die Nationalversammlung und der Senat beschlossen einstimmig das Gesetz über das einklagbare Wohnrecht, das ab 31. Dezember 2008 gelten soll. Darin wird jedem, der sich dauerhaft und legal in Frankreich aufhält und nicht in der Lage ist, eine angemessene Wohnung zu finanzieren, das Recht auf Wohnraum garantiert. Zwar ist bereits seit 1946 das Recht auf eine Wohnung in Frankreich gesetzlich festgeschrieben, aber mit dem neuen Gesetz ist der Staat gezwungen, Lösungen zu liefern. Sarkozy hatte als Präsidentschaftskandidat versprochen, "dass es in zwei Jahren keine Obdachlosen mehr geben werde", sollte er die Wahl gewinnen. Marie und die anderen in den Zelten vom Canal St. Martin glauben nicht daran.

Schilder, auf denen sie bitten, nicht wegzuschauen, denn das könne jedem passieren, haben sie zwischen ihren bunten Notunterkünften aufgestellt: "Wir bleiben, die Widerständler vom Canal St. Martin." Den Augenblick, in dem Passanten stehen bleiben, nutzt der junge Mann vor dem blauen Zelt und schnorrt eine Zigarette. Sein Blick ist glasig. Seine Nachbarin vier Zelte weiter, die ihren Namen unverständlich nuschelt, bettelt um Geld. Seit fünfeinhalb Monaten wohne sie hier. "Bis zum bitteren Ende", sagt die Endzwanzigerin mit verfilztem Haar. "Ich gebe die Hoffnung nicht auf." Die Hoffnung, worauf? "Auf das Gute, dass ich auch eine Arbeit finde und Geld habe, so wie alle anderen Menschen." Sie nimmt das kleine Körbchen mit den Cent-Münzen und klappert fordernd. Die Jogger müssen derweil aufpassen, nicht über die Zeltstrippen zu stolpern. Sie weichen für einige Meter aus, doch dann geht es weiter, direkt an den Zelten vorbei.

Weiter oberhalb am Kanal, in Richtung Place de la Bataille de Stalingrad, wischt niemand den Tisch ab, kehrt keiner vor dem Zelt. Tüten, leere Bierflaschen, Rotweinkartons liegen herum.

Wer hier lebt, hat wohl längst die Hoffnung aufgegeben, dass es ihm wie dem Obdachlosen im April ging, der als erster vom Staat eine feste Bleibe bekam. Die Kinder des Don Quichotte sahen damit auch ihre Aufgabe erfüllt: Am 9. April verkündete Augustin Legrand im französischen Fernsehen das Ende der Kampagne am Kanalufer. Bis heute verstehen einige Franzosen, viele unter ihnen Royal-Wähler, diese Entscheidung nicht.

Die Männer, deren Socken trocknen, haben die Sendung gewiss nicht gesehen. Einen Fernseher gibt es nicht. Aber ihr Leben am Canal St. Martin geht weiter, irgendwie.

Jana Schulze

Quelle: Frankfurter Rundschau

URL: [http://www.fr-online.de/in\\_und\\_ausland/politik/hintergrund/?em\\_cnt=1140937](http://www.fr-online.de/in_und_ausland/politik/hintergrund/?em_cnt=1140937)

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## Italy

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### **Nomadi, i campi della discordia**

*L'urbanizzazione forzata divide*

19 maggio 2007

MILANO - Non piace alla destra, ma non piace nemmeno ai nomadi, l'idea di costruire alla periferia di Roma, al di fuori del grande raccordo anulare, quattro grandi insediamenti per 4000 zingari che oggi vivono nelle baraccopoli abusive. Il piano sicurezza del ministro Amato è appena stato presentato e già infuriano le polemiche.

Il primo a criticare il progetto è il presidente nazionale dell'Opera Nomadi, Massimo Converso: "Altro che "villaggi della solidarietà", come li chiama il sindaco Veltroni. Questi mega accampamenti, lontanissimi dalla città, dove verranno stipati mille persone nella logica della caserma, per noi sono inaccettabili. Sapranno solo moltiplicare la devianza e l'esclusione".

Altre sono le misure necessarie, secondo Converso: "Il governo dovrebbe investire sui progetti per l'autocostruzione delle case e sugli incentivi agli affitti. I rom oggi vogliono abitare nelle case popolari, non per strada o nei container". Da Milano - 6000 zingari distribuiti in 40 tra campi autorizzati ed insediamenti abusivi - interviene don Virginio Colmegna, illuminato e ascoltato leader del volontariato, presidente della Casa della carità, sponsor col sindaco Letizia Moratti del piano per la realizzazione di un campo attrezzato, dove stanno confluendo 600 degli oltre mille rom della favela di via Triboniano.

"Il "villaggio solidale" è una mia idea, ma con mille ospiti diventerebbe ingestibile - dice Colmegna - . Bisogna costruire aree piccole e con dentro una forte idea di solidarietà e di promozione umana, per un percorso graduale di integrazione".

Una lancia a favore dei grandi campi nomadi annunciati da Amato e Veltroni la spezza l'assessore alle Politiche sociali della giunta capitolina Raffaella Milano, che deve pensare a come insediare 10-12.000 rom, oggi distribuiti in 40 fra favelas e aree attrezzate: "Abbiamo già grandi strutture per i nomadi, i villaggi Pontina e Salone, entrambi da mille ospiti, e funzionano", assicura. "Sono luoghi di passaggio, dove i rom si fermano nel tempo necessario per rendersi autonomi con il lavoro e quindi con la casa".

La contesta il presidente della federazione romana di An, Gianni Alemanno, secondo il quale "il patto di Amato è frammentario e senza risorse. Non sono previste nuove norme penali per contrastare il vagabondaggio, l'accattonaggio e l'occupazione abusiva. Nulla garantisce che i nuovi quattro villaggi diventino subito saturi e incontrollabili".

Accuse che conosce bene anche l'assessore milanese ai Servizi sociali, Mariolina Moioli, "processata" dai partiti della maggioranza di centrodestra, di cui anche lei fa parte, per il suo piano di realizzazione di nuovi campi nomadi: "Le polemiche politiche non servono a niente. Dobbiamo affrontare i problemi. La formula dei campi rom di grandi dimensioni non è una scelta ma una risposta di necessità. Accanto noi mettiamo un forte presidio sociale e garantiamo la presenza della forza pubblica, per coniugare solidarietà, legalità e sicurezza, che è la richiesta che arriva dai cittadini".

Ma il senatore della Margherita Luigi Lusi definisce i campi nomadi "vere e proprie polveriere a cielo aperto. I nuovi villaggi vanno costruiti fuori dalle città per ragioni di spazio, di igiene e di decoro urbano".

Una lettura diversa viene dall'ebreo Moni Ovadia, attore, regista, e cantore dei diritti delle minoranze: "Prima di costruire qualsiasi campo nomadi, bisognerebbe discuterne con i diretti interessati. Le soluzioni imposte dall'alto sono avvelenate". Il sociologo Luigi Manconi, studioso dell'immigrazione, interpellato, preferisce non intervenire: "Sono sottosegretario alla Giustizia, il mio ruolo istituzionale oggi non mi consente di esprimere giudizi".

L'ex ministro Laura Balbo, docente di sociologia all'università di Padova e presidente di Italia-Razzismo, mette in guardia: "Non vorrei che costruendo insediamenti così lontani dalle città, passasse il concetto che noi diamo ospitalità ai rom purché stiano lontani". Aldo Bonomi, studioso della città e dell'integrazione, aggiunge: "I Rom sono una presenza sul territorio urbano. Certo, trovare spazi idonei per loro non è facile. Ma bisogna trovare le soluzioni adatte e stare attenti a come l'idea giusta del "villaggio solidale" viene tradotta nella realtà. La dimensione del grande campo, mi spaventa. E guai agli universi concentrazionari".

Zita Dazzi

Fonte: La Repubblica

<http://www.repubblica.it/2007/04/sezioni/cronaca/rom-sinti-chi-sono/campi-discordia/campi-discordia.html>

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## **Gypsies to be housed outside of Rome**

18 May 2007

Rome will build four "solidarity villages" for gypsies outside the city, patrolled by police and equipped with welfare facilities, the government said on Friday, as part of a package of measures to allay concern about crime.

Gypsies - or Roma as they prefer to be known - from Italy and eastern Europe, and illegal immigrants, have been broadly accused in the Italian media of responsibility for a spate of violent crimes.

The media attention paid to the subject prompted one leftist cabinet minister to caution that the country that invented the Mafia should not be too quick to blame foreigners for crime.

City authorities have in the past tried to house Roma in settlements made of prefabricated material or in disused barracks, but many more Roma set up makeshift settlements by the river or beside motorways that local residents say are dens of criminality.

Attempts by Italy's previous conservative government to move them outside Rome's city limits met protests from human rights groups, but the current centre-left mayor, Walter Veltroni,

said the new camps would give Roma better access to welfare.

"The new camps will be controlled by police, meaning local authorities will guarantee the camps get the resources they need," said Veltroni.

The European Roma Rights Centre told Reuters that "at first glance, segregating or building special facilities for Roma does not sound like a good idea at all."

"It sounds pretty much in line with what Italian authorities have been doing so far, like building camps around the country for Roma, or "nomads" as they call them," said Savelina Danova of the Budapest-based Centre, which has previously made legal complaints against Italy regarding housing for Roma.

City authorities will take three months to choose sites for the Roma villages and a further nine months to build them.

The security package will provide Rome with 200 more police officers and Milan, the northern city where locals led by the mayor have taken to the streets to protest against crime, with 600 more.

Milan also plans to install video cameras to check vehicle registration numbers and help police track criminals.

Interior Minister Giuliano Amato linked the "security pact", to be extended to other cities soon, to plans to boost social housing that Prime Minister Romano Prodi will detail next week.

"How are we supposed to help the Roma integrate if we don't have houses for them?" said Amato, who recently presented data showing immigrants were responsible for one third of the crimes in Italy while making up only four percent of the population.

Stephen Brown

Source: IOL

[http://www.iol.co.za/index.php?set\\_id=1&click\\_id=24&art\\_id=nw20070518180538323C401929](http://www.iol.co.za/index.php?set_id=1&click_id=24&art_id=nw20070518180538323C401929)

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## **Italian officials study where to resettle thousands of Gypsies as part of crime crackdown**

23 May 2007

Rome is studying where to resettle the thousands of Gypsies who live in the city, as part of a nationwide crime crackdown.

Rome Prefect Achille Serra, backed by Mayor Walter Veltroni, has set up a commission to decide where to put the new settlements, Serra's office said Wednesday.

Several sprawling settlements of ramshackle trailers and wooden shanties without toilets blot the far reaches of Rome, home to about 7,000 Gypsies, or Roma.

Possibilities might include consolidating the city-run camps, established about seven years ago to replace even more squalid settlements, into four camps on the outskirts of the city.

Gypsies have faced prejudice and discrimination over the centuries. Some 500,000 of them perished in Nazi gas chambers and concentration camps in World War II.

Few people are willing to hire Gypsies and many of them have made begging and stealing their livelihood.

Special undercover police squads in Rome ride buses and subways and mingle among tourists at the Colosseum and other crowded sites to catch pickpockets, some of whom are Gypsy children. With surveys indicating that many Italians are worried about crime and that many associate crime with non-Italians, politicians have been scrambling to make citizens feel safer.

Rome is also planning to ban street prostitution. While prostitution itself would stay legal, it would be forbidden to solicit sex for money in public places.

Turin and Milan are also launching anti-crime campaigns.

Crime has been a big issue in campaigning across Italy for local elections May 27-28. The mayorships of Rome, Turin and Milan are not up for grabs in the vote, which will be held in mainly smaller cities and towns.

Source: Pravda

[http://english.pravda.ru/world/92022-Italian\\_Gypsies-0](http://english.pravda.ru/world/92022-Italian_Gypsies-0)

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## **former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia**

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### **Roma Organizations Demand Solution for the “Bekirov Case”**

The Humanitarian Voluntary Association of the Roma “Mesecina” from Gostivar accused the Macedonian state of discriminatory approach to the case of the Trajan Bekirov, a Romani adolescent whose death and the responsibility for it remain unsolved a full year after Bekirov was killed in a raid by the special police unit “Alfa”.

According to “Mesecina”, the Public Prosecutor has obviously disregarded the fact when it decided to not bring up charges despite the “evident causal relation between the death of the child and the police actions.

In addition to the attempts of the court to de-stimulate the carrying out of further procedure through inaction and purposeful prolongation of legal deadlines, the authorities disregard the fact that a child was involved, thus committing violations of several important provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, including Article 37 which prohibits exposure of children to inhuman, brutal and humiliating sanctions and torture. That is the very aspect that warrants a serious review of police actions and procedure to determine the existence of real culpability.

It is unacceptable, say “Mesecina” representatives, for Macedonia to allow that such a case remain unsolved in the situation when we attempt a thorough reform of police and judiciary, in order to establish a system for effective protection of human rights and freedoms. Quite to the contrary, in all latest reports regarding human rights in Macedonia, the state is named in relation to the issue of protection of rights of Roma population.

Dejan Georgievski

Source: One World

<http://see.oneworld.net/article/view/149183/1/3260>

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## Romania

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### Romanian President Receives Warning After Racial Slur (Update1)

23 May 22007

Romania's anti-racism agency issued a warning to President Traian Basescu after an investigation into allegations that he racially insulted a reporter.

The Council for Combating Discrimination handed down the citation today after Basescu, who won a weekend referendum called by his opponents to oust him, was caught on tape referring to Andreea Pana, a reporter for Antena 1 television, as a "stinking Gypsy."

"The council unanimously decided this comment constituted discrimination," Asztalos Csaba, council president said at a news conference.

Romania, which joined the European Union on Jan. 1, has Europe's largest population of Roma, often referred to as Gypsies, a term many consider offensive. The EU has told Romania to improve efforts to combat discrimination against more than 2 million Roma, its poorest and largest ethnic minority.

Basescu's lawyer, Cristian Ene, said in an interview broadcast live on Realitatea television today that he will appeal the decision because Basescu made the comment to his wife in private and was unaware he was being taped.

"Nobody has the right to interfere in the private life of any citizen of Romania," he said. Basescu on May 21 offered the reporter "sincere apologies" for an "unsuitable expression used in a private conversation."

Csaba said the warning was the lightest action available to the council. The directors had the power to issue a fine of as much as 6,000 lei (\$2,480).

Basescu made the comments at a supermarket on May 19, the same day he won a nationwide referendum that his opponents had called in an attempt to oust him. They said he undermined the government by interfering too much in domestic politics. Basescu said the referendum was an attempt to silence his anti-corruption campaign. About 74 percent of voters backed Basescu.

According to sound and images broadcast by Antena 1 and other TV stations, Pana, who isn't Roma, followed Basescu from the school where he voted to a supermarket. She used her cell phone camera to film him shopping with his wife.

Basescu grabbed the phone and put it in his pocket. As he left the supermarket with his wife, he said "that stinking Gypsy was so aggressive."

After driving home, Basescu gave the phone to presidential security agents who returned it to the reporter.

Adam Brown

Source: Bloomberg

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601085&sid=aVzdlk51Znno&refer=europe#>

## Romania President Apologizes for Slur

21 May 2007

BUCHAREST, Romania -- Romanian President Traian Basescu apologized Monday for calling a journalist a "stinky Gypsy" during a conversation recorded on the reporter's cell phone and broadcast on local television.

Basescu was approached by the journalist, Andreea Pana, in a Bucharest supermarket on Saturday, when Romanians were voting on whether to impeach him for alleged constitutional abuses. Basescu overwhelmingly won the vote.

Pana tried to ask him about the ballot and filmed him with a cell phone. Irritated, Basescu snatched the phone from her, but it continued to record a conversation between Basescu and his wife, Maria, in which the president called Pana a "stinky Gypsy."

A Basescu spokesman later returned the phone to the journalist, and audio portions of the clip were broadcast on Romanian TV stations.

The president issued an apology, saying the remarks were caused by stress.

Basescu "regrets that an improper expression used in a private conversation ... became public," his office said. "He asks her to accept his sincere apology."

Basescu easily won the referendum, with more than 74 percent of Romanians backing him. Parliament had suspended the president and called the referendum, saying he violated the constitution by usurping the role of the prime minister and criticizing the courts.

The Constitutional Court had ruled that the president did not abuse his powers, but lawmakers were allowed to make their own decision.

On Monday, about 20 Gypsy and press freedom activists protested at the president's office, some wearing T-shirts reading "Stinky Gypsy." They left a bar of soap and a CD with Gypsy music.

"Not only does the president have a duty not to discriminate ... but he is obliged by the constitution to have a proactive role in fighting all forms of discrimination," the protesters said in a letter.

Gypsies in Romania are routinely discriminated against when applying for jobs, and many of them live in abject poverty.

There are officially some 500,000 Roma, or Gypsies, in Romania, but polls have put the actual figure at more than 1 million. Many do not declare themselves to be Gypsies due to widespread prejudice.

Source: The Associated Press

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/nationworld/sns-ap-romania-president,1,3790191,print.story?coll=chi-newsnationworld-hed>

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## Kosovo/Serbia

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### Witness: "Balaj raped me"

13 May 2007

Protected witness testifying at the trial of Haradinaj, Balaj and Brahimaj described how she was raped a number of times in the KLA in the village of Rznic in the summer of 1998. The witness failed to identify Balaj on a photo board with eight photos the OTP investigators showed her

Witness 61, a Roma/Egyptian woman, lived in the village of Rznic near Decani with her husband and his parents. The village lived in fear of Toger - nom de guerre used by the second accused Idriz Balaj.

One night in late July 1998, Toger and four soldiers in black uniforms broke into the witness's family home. They dragged her and her husband out of the bed, she said, and took them to a house in Rznic where the KLA HQ was located. Her husband was soon taken to a well in the courtyard while she was taken to a room where Roger first questioned her about her husband's alleged collaboration with the Serbian authorities. Then he ordered her to undress and lie on the bed.

He then "did what he wanted" - raped her - several times, while she lay there, silent and trembling. Since she was unable to describe the incident in detail in the courtroom, the prosecutor read out portions of her statement where she said she had been raped at least twice vaginally and once anally. When it was all over, the witness and her husband were released. She learned from her husband that two soldiers had put him down the well and kept him there, up to his waist in water, while she was in the HQ. In the prosecution pre-trial brief it is indicated that he too will testify at the trial of the three former KLA commanders. When they got home at around 3 a.m., the witness told her household about what had happened. Her father-in-law went to the KLA HQ to complain about Balaj's conduct. Three KLA commanders came to their house then, the witness said, asking her whether the story her father-in-law had told them was true. When she confirmed it, they told her that Balaj had first denied the rape and finally admitted to it.

Although she said she could not recall what Balaj looked like, adding that she would not recognize him today, she was eventually able to remember that he was dark and short, although taller than her, and that he had "some lumps" on his face. In a brief cross-examination by Balaj's defense counsel Guy-Smith, the witness confirmed she had been unable to identify Idriz Balaj when she had been shown a photo board with eight photographs including Balaj's by the OTP investigators in October 2002.

The trial of Ramush Haradinaj, Idriz Balaj and Lahi Brahimaj continues on Monday.

Source: Sense

<http://www.sense-agency.com/en/press/printarticle.php?pid=9648>

### **La etnia gitana, el grupo social más discriminado de España**

23 de Mayo de 2007

Los gitanos en España constituyen un grupo étnico formado por más de medio millón de personas. Su cultura ha ido ligada a circunstancias de marginación histórica e, incluso, de persecución legal que, desde hace unos años, se pretenden reparar y combatir con iniciativas como la firma del Manifiesto del Defensor del Pueblo de España y los Comisionados Parlamentarios Autonómicos en apoyo del pueblo gitano de 1999 o las recientes puestas en marcha del Consejo Estatal del Pueblo Gitano y del Instituto de Cultura Gitana.

Sin embargo aún queda mucho camino por recorrer. Hace unos semanas saltó a la prensa el caso de María Luisa Muñoz. El Tribunal Constitucional denegaba la pensión de viudedad a esta mujer que se casó en 1971 por el rito gitano y cuyo marido cotizó durante 19 años.

Los medios han recogido también en los últimos días la situación de muchos casos de personas, en su mayoría gitanos y extranjeros, que han puesto quejas ante el Consejo General del Poder Judicial contra un registro civil de Toledo por un supuesto trato discriminatorio y arbitrario.

El informe ‘Discriminación y Comunidad Gitana 2006’ del área de Igualdad de Trato y No discriminación de la Fundación Secretariado Gitano establece un mapa general de los ámbitos en los que se producen prácticas discriminatorias hacia la comunidad gitana.

Destaca el mundo del mercado laboral, donde existen prejuicios por parte de los empresarios: “Se piensa que son unos vagos, que no les gusta trabajar, piensan que si los contratan luego faltarán al trabajo”.

En el sector de la hostelería el panorama es aún más desolador, ya que en varios estudios de opinión una gran mayoría de empresarios ha explicado que no quiere contratar a gitanos porque temen que se les vaya a llenar el bar de personas de esta etnia, cosa que, según ellos, conllevaría la pérdida de su clientela habitual.

También se han documentado prácticas discriminatorias en el ámbito de la vivienda: según el informe, los propietarios o agencias inmobiliarias se niegan a alquilar pisos a los miembros de la comunidad gitana porque piensan que no van a pagar el alquiler todos los meses, porque creen que meterán a toda la familia en la vivienda o que montarán jaleo hasta altas horas de la madrugada.

También se alega, en muchas ocasiones, que por el carácter de los gitanos es muy fácil que surjan enfrentamientos con el resto de vecinos, como amenazas o episodios de violencia. Otros prejuicios hacen referencia a que los gitanos no van a respetar las normas de convivencia o que van a dejarlo todo sucio.

Fuente: d Minorías

<http://www.deminorias.com/noticia.php?ID=7170>

## **Una decena de familias acusan de racismo ante el CGPJ a una funcionaria del Registro Civil de Talavera de la Reina**

17 de Abril de 2007

Toledo.- Más de una decena de familias han denunciado ante el la Unidad de Atención al Ciudadano del Consejo General del Poder Judicial (CGPJ) el trato recibido por una funcionaria del Registro Civil de Talavera de la Reina, a la que acusan de racismo.

Una de las personas que, según aseguró, se ha visto perjudicada por la actuación de la funcionaria, Almudena Valleros, indicó en declaraciones a Europa Press Tv que cuando ella fue a registrar a su hijo Raúl recién nacido, esa empleada le dijo que no podía inscribirlo en el Registro porque "era hijo de gitano".

"Yo salí del hospital y dos o tres días después fui a registrarlo al Juzgado número 5 de Talavera de la Reina, y fui de una forma educada. Iba con mi pareja, el padre del niño, un gitano, fui a registrarlo y me dijo después de mirar a mi pareja que no, que ahí no registraba a hijos de gitanos", explicó.

Según relató, las personas que aguardan su turno en esa oficina pudieron ver y oír lo que ocurría y "se quejaron", porque, tal y como apostilló Almudena, "decían que era una falta de respeto". Así, ante la presión de los reunidos, la funcionaria cedió "y al cabo de varias horas" le entregó el libro de familia "con desagrado".

Ahora, Almudena, tras conocer más casos parecidos al suyo pero que no han terminado tan bien, apuntó que exige "que se haga justicia" y señaló que su deseo es que la funcionaria "no sea tan racista". "No puede tratar así a la gente, seas gitano, blanco, negro o azul, nos tiene que tratar como personas, aunque seamos humildes somos personas civilizadas, seres humanos, somos todos iguales", subrayó.

Según añadió Almudena, una familiar suya también ha sufrido el mal trato de esta funcionaria en primera persona porque, tal y como relató, "estaba saliendo con un chico marroquí y le dijo que él sólo estaba con ella por interés y por los papeles". "Pero eso es mentira porque llevan ya casi siete años de relación; además por culpa de ella perdió al niño --estaba embarazada cuando la funcionaria le aconsejó eso--, se le paró el corazón al niño", indicó.

Por su parte, fuentes del Registro Civil de Talavera de la Reina, al ser preguntados por la denuncia interpuesta por la funcionaria, han rechazado ofrecer cualquier tipo de declaraciones. Informó Europa Press.

Fuente: La Ley

[http://publicaciones.laley.net/noticias/noticias\\_texto.cfm?noticia\\_id=21253](http://publicaciones.laley.net/noticias/noticias_texto.cfm?noticia_id=21253)

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## **Switzerland**

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### **Aide au retour supprimé pour les requérants provenant de l'UE**

17 mai 2007

BERN - L'Office fédéral des migrations (ODM) a décidé de supprimer les 700 francs d'aide au retour pour les requérants d'asile déboutés provenant de l'Union européenne (UE). Motif: les abus commis par des tsiganes provenant de Roumanie.

L'ODM entend donner un signal clair qu'il ne s'agit pas de venir en Suisse seulement pour toucher 700 francs, a déclaré Klara Turtschi, de l'ODM, dans l'émission "10 vor 10" de la TV

alémanique. Depuis le début de l'année, le nombre de Roms demandant l'asile en Suisse a massivement augmenté, bien que les perspectives d'une issue positive soient minimes pour les citoyens de l'UE.

Ainsi, de janvier à avril 2007, 205 demandes d'asile ont été déposées par des Roumains. Ce sont 195 de plus que pour la même période de l'an dernier.

Dorénavant, les requérants tsiganes roumains déboutés ne toucheront plus que 50 francs de frais de voyage. Ceux qui se trouvent actuellement en Suisse sont venus ensemble dans des bus, a précisé Mme Turtschi. Ils pourraient également être rapatriés par bus. La Roumanie figure sur la liste des Etats sûrs.

Source : Le temps

<http://www.letemps.ch/template/static.asp?ats=20070517222557189172194810700.xml>

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## United Kingdom

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### Town struggles to cope with Roma children

13 May 2007

A Berkshire town has been struggling to cope with nearly 90 Roma children, one as young as 10, who have arrived unaccompanied from eastern Europe. The parents of the children have apparently paid someone in Romania to send them to Slough, forcing the council to set up a special assessment team and spend £150,000 helping the children. It has called for more government help to offset the strain on other services.

Since 1 January, when Romania joined the EU, 88 Romanian Roma children have arrived asking for help. They usually arrive in groups of three. Six have had babies of their own and seven have been pregnant.

Slough is currently supporting 53 children, while others have been sent to live with family members in other parts of the UK.

Source: The Guardian

[http://observer.guardian.co.uk/uk\\_news/story/0,,2078526,00.html](http://observer.guardian.co.uk/uk_news/story/0,,2078526,00.html)

## Vacancies

### Project Manager and Project Assistant

The European Roma and Travellers Forum is looking for a Project Manager and a Project Assistant to set up its new subsidiary in Brussels.

#### *Job Description (Project Manager)*

- in cooperation with the Secretariat of the Forum, set up and maintain a functional office in Brussels,
- establish and maintain good working relations with the European Commission, Parliament and other EU institutions and national government representations,
- liaise with the national member organizations and the Secretariat in Strasbourg and keep them informed about relevant developments affecting Roma at EU level,
- in cooperation with the ERTF Secretariat, draft regular reports on specific policy areas,
- in cooperation with the Secretariat and the network members issue policy recommendations

to the EU institutions on specific policy areas and policies affecting Roma,  
- establish and maintain good working relations with civil society organizations working in Brussels, in particular with the Commission sponsored networks.

#### *Requirements*

- University degree in Social Sciences or Law,
- minimum of three years of experience in a similar position with a national NGO or public administration,
- knowledge and understanding of the situation of Roma in Europe,
- knowledge and understanding of EU politics, in particular on areas which particularly affect Roma,
- good communication and writing skills,
- professional fluency in English and good knowledge of Romani compulsory,
- additional language skills in particular of French will be considered as an asset.

#### *Job Description (Project Assistant)*

- assist the project manager in his/her daily duties,
- perform administrative tasks including book-keeping.

#### *Requirements*

- University degree in Social Sciences or Law or commensurate professional experience,
- professional fluency in English and good knowledge of Romani compulsory,
- additional language in particular of French and Dutch will be considered as an asset,
- flexibility and adaptability.

Candidates must be nationals of a Council of Europe member State and must be aged under 55 on the closing date of the vacancy notice.

Both positions are initially limited until 15 December 2007.

#### *Applications*

Interested persons should send their application together with a cover letter and CV outlining their interest and experience in English, French or Romani to:

European Roma and Travellers Forum  
c/o Council of Europe  
rue Tureau  
F - 67075 Strasbourg

E-mail: [ertf@ertf.org](mailto:ertf@ertf.org)

Letters of recommendation from Roma or Traveller NGOs as well as of recommendation from a former employer will be appreciated.

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### **Part-time assistants on Human Rights, Social Cohesion and Culture**

The European Roma and Travellers Forum is looking for part-time assistants to support the work of its directorates Human Rights (Czech Republic), Social Cohesion (Romania) and Culture (Poland).

Under the direction of the directors of the directorates the assistants will be in charge of following up on any important developments in their field and assure a smooth communication flow between the directorates, the Forum's delegates and the Forum's central offices. They will also support the directors in administrative tasks and provide logistic support to the organisation of meetings.

Minimum requirements:

- Undergraduate studies in a relevant field such as social sciences, law or economics
- Good knowledge and experience on Roma issues
- Experience in drafting and writing of reports
- Administrative and logistic experience
- Good knowledge of English and Romani compulsory

The positions are on a consultancy basis (300 Euros per month) and do not constitute a full-time employment.

Interested persons should send their application (letter of motivation plus CV) to the ERTF Secretariat at: [ertf@ertf.org](mailto:ertf@ertf.org)

For further information please contact the Secretariat of the Forum:

Tel.: + 33 3 90 21 5350

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Established in 2004, the European Roma and Travellers Forum is the European Romani interest representation which gathers Romani organisations from all over Europe. Its aim is to promote the effective exercise by Roma and Travellers of all human rights and fundamental freedoms as protected by the legal instruments of the Council of Europe and other international legal instruments. A partnership agreement with the Council of Europe gives the Forum a unique status and makes it a prime interlocutor for the Council of Europe and national governments on issues affecting Roma communities.

ERTF Update is an information bulletin on Roma issues. The views represented in the articles and comments do not necessarily represent the view of the European Roma and Travellers Forum. For reactions and comments please write to [ertf@ertf.org](mailto:ertf@ertf.org).