



INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL ON EVICTIONS

(Milan, Italy, 9th-10th october 2014)

General Information

1. Country Romania
2. City Eforie, Constanta,
3. Neighbourhood Eforie Sud
4. Community or family group threatened by evictions Roma families living in the area, some of whom had been living there for 40 years.

Description of case of forced evictions

5. State of forced evictions 1 (already taken place)
6. History and precedents to case The community was threatened several times with eviction and tried to halt it. However, by the time they succeeded in getting a suspension of the order for demolition their houses had already been demolished. 22 homes were demolished in the presence of many law enforcement officers. At the time local media reported that the deputy mayor directly threatened the evicted people, stating that "if you don't come out, we're going to kill you here".
7. Estimation of number of people affected (figure). Percentage of women and children? 101, including 55 children
8. What are the motivating reasons behind the evictions? (official and unofficial) Authorities stated that they were going to use the land as part of a social housing development. However, one year later there has been no development of this social housing. Unofficially, the affected people have faced a lot of harassment from people in the area, including threats of violence.
9. Main incidents related to the evictions (dates and times) On 27 September 2013 , 22 houses were demolished. No alternative housing was provided and the people were forced to spend four days outdoors in makeshift shelters, in particularly bad weather. Ten of the families were then placed in an abandoned and derelict school building, which became their home for almost a year. On 16 July 2014 , ten families were again evicted from the abandoned school building. Seven families were moved to containers which fail to meet basic housing standards such as adequate sanitation, water and electricity supplies, and which are severely overcrowded due to their small size – each container is less than 20 square metres. They are located on the edge of the town, and beside a large excavation site which poses a serious safety risk, particularly for children. Three families, including 14 children, were provided with no accommodation of any kind. The municipality did not give proper notice of the eviction, and refused to indicate its legal basis.
10. What are the damages? the families lost their homes and some property in the eviction. Since the eviction they have all been living in inadequate accommodation, often in deplorable conditions. Some lived in an abandoned school building, which was derelict and completely unsuitable. Some were living in makeshift tents as no other option was made available to them.

11. In what respect are women and children particularly affected by the evictions? It is particularly difficult for children to have any good quality life in these conditions.

12. Who are the authorities planning and/ or executing the evictions? The local authorities carried out the eviction.

Support, measures taken and follow up

13. Are those evicted or threatened with eviction supported by local and/ or international organisations? si (yes: which?)

The European Roma Rights Centre (ERRC) together with Romani CRISS, a Romanian NGO, are mounting a legal challenge to the evictions.

14. What measures have the evicted persons and supporting organisations taken to impede evictions? With each threat of evictions the ERRC and others have contacted local authorities in order to find alternatives. However, the authorities have failed completely to provide any suitable accommodation for families, or to protect them from further evictions

15. What measures have the evicted persons and supporting organisations taken to reduce its' effects? The people are taking legal action with regard to the eviction but to date there has been no outcome.

16. What measures have the evicted persons and supporting organisations taken to claim compensation? The people are taking legal action with regard to the eviction but to date there has been no outcome.

17. Did those evicted or threatened with eviction have organisations that support the possibility of proposing alternatives? extra (yes: which?)

European Roma Rights Centre, Romani CRISS

18. What alternatives or viable solutions were proposed by the local authorities to the affected communities/ people? The authorities did not propose any viable or suitable alternatives.

19. What are the strategies and measures already in place and/ or expected to face the situation? The main strategy is legal action, as other strategies (consulting with local authorities) did not bring any results.

20. Can you explain what it is about and when it will take place: day, month, year? Legal action is ongoing but for now we are still waiting for a decision on admissibility.

Details of the person registering information

21. Name and surname Kieran O'Reilly

22. Function Research officer

23. Organisation European Roma Rights Centre

24. Address Wesselenyi utca 16, Budapest 1077

25. Country Hungary

26. Telephone 0036 30 500 2227

27. E-mail kieran.oreilly@errc.org

28. Website www.errc.org

29. Language of reference English

30. Person of contact (if different) n/a

Documents (to upload)

31. Videos Nessun file multimediale disponibile.

32. Pictures Nessun file multimediale disponibile.

33. Files Nessun file multimediale disponibile.

Publication Conditions

34. Do you accept that this information be made public? si (si)

35. Would you be willing to present your case in public during the fourth session of the International Tribunal on Evictions (Milan, Italy, October 9th to 10th 2014)? no (no)