

URGENT ACTION

THREATS OF FORCED EVICTION TO ROMA CONTINUE

On 7 May, around 20 Roma residents of an informal settlement on Paprotna Street, Wroclaw were served with a 14-day eviction notice by the municipality without any consultation with them on the planned eviction. The 20 Roma residents including children have been living in Paprotna Street for the past three years following a previous eviction.

This is the second case in two months where the municipality of Wroclaw has not followed due process leading up to planned evictions. This case is preceded by the case of 60 Roma people from Kamienskigo Street in Wroclaw that have now been facing forced eviction since the end of March.

Following on the initial Urgent Action issued on the 4 April (linked below) regarding the threat of forced eviction of Roma residents of Kamienskigo Street, the Wroclaw municipality met with representatives of Amnesty International Poland on 12 April. In the meeting, representatives of the municipality expressed their willingness to act in compliance with human rights standards including those related to the right to adequate housing and forced evictions. However, the municipality's action in planning evictions that target the residents of another informal settlement on Paprotna Street, run contrary to their pronouncements in the meeting

Please write immediately in English, Polish or your own language:

- Calling on the Wroclaw city authorities to immediately halt the evictions in two settlements at Kamienskigo and Paprotna Street and ensure that evictions are only carried out once all international legal and procedural safeguards including genuine consultation, adequate notice and access to legal remedies are in place;
- Call for them to ensure that any evictions of the communities currently living in both settlements are carried out only as a last resort and according to international human rights standards, following identification and serious consideration of all feasible alternatives based on genuine consultation with all those affected;
- Call for them to ensure that no one is left homeless and vulnerable to other violations of their human rights as a result of actions undertaken by the authorities;
- Remind the authorities that unless these conditions are met, an eviction will violate the human rights of affected individuals and amount to a breach of Poland's international human rights commitments.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 28 JUNE 2013 TO:

Mayor of Wroclaw

Rafał Dutkiewicz
ul. Sukiennice 9
50-107 Wroclaw
Poland
Fax: +48 71 777 72 77
Email: bpr@um.wroc.pl
Salutation: Dear Mayor

Minister of Labour and Social Policy

Władysław Kosiniak-Kamysz
Ministerstwo Pracy i Polityki Społecznej
ul. Nowogrodzka 1/3/5
00-513 Warszawa, Poland
Fax: +48 22 661 1336
Email: info@mpips.gov.pl
Salutation: Dear Minister

Wroclaw Municipality

Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/wroclaw.wroclowe?fref=ts>
Twitter: .@wroclaw_info (Suggested message: "It doesn't bother me that Roma live nearby - .@wroclaw_info Stop the Kamienskigo and Prapotna Street eviction! #RomaRights in #Wroclaw")

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country.

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date. This is the first update of UA 83/13
<http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/EUR37/001/2013/en>

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

On 26 March, the residents of the settlement at Kamienskiego Street in Wroclaw received eviction notices from the municipality. They were given 14 days to vacate the area. The local authority did not consult any of the residents on alternatives to the eviction or possible housing solutions, despite their poverty and social vulnerability. The families have no means to access adequate alternative housing and the eviction is likely to leave 60 people homeless, including around 35 children.

Residents of both the Kamienskiego Street and Paprotna Street settlements belong to Romanian Roma community who arrived in Wroclaw in the late 1990s. The land on which the settlements are constructed belongs to the municipality and because the community lacks security of tenure they are at constant threat of forced evictions and other legal action.

Amnesty International has reminded the Polish authorities that under international human rights law, which the country is bound by, any eviction can be carried out only as a last resort and after all feasible alternatives to evictions have been explored in genuine consultation with affected persons. Even where evictions are considered to be justified, they must be preceded by genuine consultation with the affected communities; all affected individuals should be provided with adequate notice, have the opportunity to legally challenge the eviction process and obtain effective legal remedies, including compensation for any harm and loss suffered. The authorities have an obligation to ensure that nobody is left homeless as a result of an eviction by providing adequate alternative housing for those who cannot provide for themselves.

Name: Residents of Kamienskiego Street and Paprotna Street, 20 people and 60 people respectively.

Gender m/f: Both

Further information on UA: 83/13 Index: EUR 37/005/2013 Issue Date: 17 May 2013