

# AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC STATEMENT

8 April 2010  
AI Index EUR 70/004/2010

## Serbia: Time to stop forcible evictions

On International Roma Day Amnesty International urges the Serbian government to bring an immediate end to the forcible eviction of Roma from settlements in Belgrade. The organization considers that evictions carried out over the past year, in advance of construction projects, failed to meet international human rights standards.

Amnesty International notes that Božidar Đelić, Deputy Prime Minister responsible for European Union Integration will today present the Serbian government's Strategy for the Promotion of the Roma in Serbia at the Second European Roma Summit in Córdoba, Spain. The organization urges the Minister to ensure that the Serbian government's commitments to improving the right to housing of Roma are extended to Roma living in the city of Belgrade.

Many Roma evicted from a settlement in New Belgrade known as Blok 67 in April 2009, in advance of the 2009 International Student Games still remain without adequate housing. Now another 300 Romani families in the nearby Belville settlement await eviction from their homes in advance of a road development project

In August 2009, more than 170 Roma families were forcibly evicted from under the Gazela Bridge and now live in containers on the outskirts of the city.. In March 2010, between 20 and 25 families were evicted in Vidikovac, a district of Belgrade, without warning and now have nowhere to live. Roma families living under the Pančevo Bridge are likely to be evicted to make way for expansion of port of Belgrade and settlements in Leskovac, Pirot and Vranje in southern Serbia will be evicted to make way for a motorway.

Amnesty International is calling on the Serbian authorities, and in particular on the Mayor of Belgrade, Dragan Đilas, to respect the Basic Principles and Guidelines on Development-Based Evictions and Displacement, and ensure that evictions are carried out only as a last resort, after genuine consultation with the affected communities. It is also the responsibility of the authorities to ensure that those who are evicted are guaranteed the right to adequate housing.

### **Stop Forced Evictions of Roma in Europe – new publication**

On the occasion of International Roma Day, Amnesty International has issued a new publication [\*Stop Forced Evictions of Roma in Europe\*](#) (Index EUR 01/005/2010). Available in Serbian translation, the document highlights how Roma are being subjected to forced evictions across Europe.

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