

URGENT ACTION

SEVEN FAMILIES AT RISK OF BEING MADE HOMELESS

Seven households (14 adults and 20 children) are facing imminent forced eviction in the Zvjerinjak settlement in Nikšić, the second largest city in Montenegro. The authorities have failed to respect any of the safeguards and protections set out in international law, including the provision of adequate alternative housing.

The seven households have been living in the informal settlement for the past eight years, on what is now privately owned land. They include five Roma families who were displaced from Kosovo following the 1999 armed conflict. The two other households include a single mother and her children, and two retired men, who have no other housing options.

The owner of the land where the Zvjerinjak settlement is situated has received authorization from the Nikšić city court to evict the families and demolish their houses. Over the past three years, he has agreed to postpone the eviction on several occasions, in order to allow the Montenegrin authorities to provide the affected people with alternative accommodation. In March 2014, he agreed to postpone the eviction until 15 May. No alternative accommodation has been offered so far and the affected families are at risk of being made homeless.

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

- Calling on the authorities to liaise with the Nikšić court and the landowner to stop the imminent forced eviction of the affected people living at the Zvjerinjak settlement;
- Urge the authorities without delay to take immediate measures to identify feasible alternatives to the eviction or provide the affected households with adequate alternative housing in accordance with international human rights standards, in consultation with the affected families;
- Remind the authorities of their obligation to prevent forced evictions, to provide adequate alternative housing to those who cannot provide for themselves and to ensure that, as highlighted by international human rights standards, even in cases where the eviction is considered justified, it must be carried out in strict compliance with international human rights law.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 20 JUNE 2014 TO:

Minister of Labour and Social Welfare
Mr Predrag Bošković
Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare
Rimski trg 46
81000 Podgorica, Montenegro
Fax: +382 78 113 340
Email: ministar.mrss@mrss.gov.me or
predrag.boskovic@mrs.gov.me (please
keep trying)
Salutation: Dear Minister

Director of the Centre for Social Work
Nikšić
Mr Ivan Mitrović
Centre for Social Work Nikšić
Njegoševa 10
81400 Nikšić, Montenegro
Fax: +382 40 215 192
Email: csrniksic@t-com.me or
ivan.csrniksic@t-com.me (keep trying)
Salutation: Dear Director

And copies to:

Minister for Human and Minority Rights
Mr Suad Numanović
Ministry for Human and Minority Rights
Rimski trg b.b.
81000 Podgorica, Montenegro
Fax: +382 20 234 198
E-mail: kabinet@mmp.gov.me

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. Please insert local diplomatic addresses below:

Name Address 1 Address 2 Address 3 Fax Fax number Email Email address Salutation Salutation

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Forced evictions are evictions carried out without adequate notice and consultation with those affected, without legal safeguards and without assurances of adequate alternative accommodation. Under international law, including the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), which guarantees the right to adequate housing, Montenegro is prohibited from carrying out forced evictions, and must protect people from forced evictions.

Montenegro is obliged to ensure that the affected families are provided with adequate alternative accommodation, and are not rendered homeless. Additionally, Montenegro has ratified the Optional Protocol to the ICESCR whereby individual complaints can be considered before the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the United Nations independent body of experts responsible for supervising State compliance with all the rights protected in the ICESCR.

Under international human rights law and standards, evictions may be carried out only as a last resort, once all other feasible alternatives have been explored in genuine consultation with the people affected. Evictions cannot be carried out until appropriate procedural and legal safeguards are in place.

Governments must also ensure that no one is made homeless or vulnerable to other human rights violations as a consequence of an eviction. People must be compensated for all losses and governments must provide adequate alternative housing to those who cannot provide for themselves.

Name: 34 people (of which 20 children)

Gender m/f: both

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