

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

Media Advisory

AI Index: POL 30/022/2004 (Public)
News Service No: 109
29 April 2004

The last Europeans: Roma on the eve of enlargement

As ten new countries join the EU on 1 May, some sections of the media have focussed on the Roma community. However, few have looked at the fact that Roma remain the subject of powerful exclusionary forces and many of these new EU states have problematic human rights records in respect to their Romani minorities. And they're not alone; the records of existing European Union Member states are similarly problematic.

Anti-Romani hostility results in racial discrimination and other burdens hindering many Roma from full participation in the societies in which they live. Actions to combat these phenomena are still fledgling and are entirely absent in a number of countries.

In a feature written for **news.amnesty** on the eve of enlargement, **Claude Cahn**, Programmes Director of the European Roma Rights Center and Executive Editor of the quarterly journal Roma Rights, looks at the treatment of Roma in the new and existing EU countries - <http://news.amnesty.org/mav/index/ENGEUR0129042004>

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For more information please call Amnesty International's press office in London, UK, on +44 20 7413 5566
Amnesty International, 1 Easton St., London WC1X 0DW. web: <http://www.amnesty.org>

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