

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC STATEMENT

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Serbia: A roof over your head is a human right

Around 100,000 young people enjoying the EXIT Festival in Novi Sad this weekend are invited to join the campaign for housing rights for Roma in Serbia.

This is the message coming from Amnesty International and the Serbian Regional Centre for Minorities, and from bands supporting the "roof over your head" campaign.

A team of 25 international, Serbian and Roma activists will be around the site, inviting people to send their message in a photo petition to be sent to the Serbian authorities. In the campaign tent, there are opportunities to carry the message home, as well as to the Serbian government. Local artists will print the campaign slogan on your Tshirt, or a temporary tattoo on your body. Videos documenting recent evictions of Roma settlements and recent Amnesty reports on the housing rights of Roma across Europe will be available too.

The "*Roof over your head*" campaign is a joint initiative between Amnesty International and the Regional Centre for Minorities, who are calling on the Serbian government to implement its policies on housing, including those agreed in the 2009 National Strategy on Roma Inclusion.

The organizations are calling for the regularization or legalization of informal settlements, which will give Roma and other communities access to basic services including water, electricity and roads. Where informal settlements cannot be improved, the organizations are calling for Roma - and other communities at risk of eviction - to be resettled according to international human rights standards.

Journalists are invited to come and visit the campaign tent.

For interviews with international, Serbian and Roma volunteers call

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