

URGENT ACTION

EVICTION IN BELGRADE LEAVES FAMILIES HOMELESS

Five Roma families who lived in privately owned buildings in 55 Skadarska Street, Belgrade, Serbia were evicted on 11 August. The eviction was carried out on the basis of a decision made by a Belgrade court on 29 June, which stated that the residents had to vacate the property and remove all their possessions.

On 27 July, the affected families, together with activists from several Belgrade NGOs, peacefully prevented an officer of the court who was accompanied by police officers from carrying out the forced eviction. They managed to negotiate with the court official for the eviction to be postponed until 11 August, during which time the NGOs stated that they would take all possible measures to influence the relevant authorities and ensure that the families are provided with adequate alternative housing.

One of these local NGOs, Praxis, approached the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, City Secretariat for Social Protection and City Centre for Social Work and asked for the families to be provided with adequate alternative housing. Amnesty International issued an Urgent Action urging the authorities to stop the forced eviction and to provide adequate housing.

However, the government and City authorities have failed to respond positively to these requests and the families are now homeless. Amnesty International is especially concerned as 10 out of 20 members of this community are children and one of the women in the community may be sent back to her home in southern Serbia, which she fled to avoid domestic violence.

No further appeals from the network are required at present but Amnesty International will continue to monitor this case.

This is the first update of UA 239/11. Further information: <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/EUR70/011/2011/en>

Name: Five families

Gender m/f: Both

Further information on UA: 239/11 Index: EUR 70/012/2011 Issue Date: 12 August 2011