

URGENT ACTION

EVICTED FAMILIES FORCED TO SLEEP IN A GYMNASIUM

The forced eviction of an informal settlement near Bobigny, in the outskirts of Paris, has left more than 60 people, including 15 children and infants, homeless. They are currently sleeping in a gymnasium in the centre of Paris but will have to leave imminently and without any alternative housing solution proposed to date.

On 21 October more than 300 Roma people living in the informal settlement of Bobigny were forcibly evicted. Only about 130 were offered any alternative housing solutions. More than 100 people left the settlement before the eviction. Police pressured the others to leave the municipality of Bobigny shortly after the eviction. On 22 October at 1am, about 60 people, including 15 children and infants, were eventually offered temporary shelter in a gymnasium by the local council of the 10th district of Paris. However, they will not be allowed to stay more than two nights in the gymnasium.

On 5 August a social assessment of the temporary settlement in Bobigny was carried out. However, many families from the settlement were away when it was carried out, as it was during the school holidays. As a result, many of the families were not consulted prior to the eviction and their needs had not been taken into account. In addition, most of the alternative housing solutions proposed by authorities were inadequate, as they relied on accommodating families in residences designed for single migrant workers located hundreds of kilometres away from Bobigny, making it impossible for the children to pursue their education in the schools where they were enrolled.

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

- Urging the Prime Minister to immediately find an adequate housing solution for all those who were forcibly evicted from the Bobigny informal settlement and are currently either homeless or given short-term rehousing solutions and ensure that children can continue to attend school;
- Reminding the Prime Minister that according to international human rights standards, as well as by the Inter-ministerial Circular adopted by the French government on 26 August 2012, no one should be made homeless by an eviction and urging him to ensure that no forced evictions will be carried out in the future.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 3 DECEMBER 2014 TO:

Prime Minister
M. Manuel Valls
Hôtel de Matignon
57, rue de Varenne, 75700 Paris
Fax: +33 1 42 75 75 04
**Salutation: Monsieur le Premier
Ministre**

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.

This is the first update of UA261/14. Further information: <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/EUR21/006/2014/en>

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According to the authorities, the eviction was justified on the basis of safety concerns, in particular regarding the electrical supply. In February 2014, a fire destroyed part of the informal settlement and killed a child. However, the authorities failed to address or improve the safety of the settlement. On 2 July 2014 the High Court of Bobigny highlighted that the eviction would violate the right to family life of the occupants of the informal settlement, considering that no alternative housing solutions had been devised and concluded that there was no urgency in carrying out the eviction.

Name: 200 Roma inhabitants, including around 50 children

Gender m/f: Both

Further information on UA: 261/14 Index: EUR 21/007/2014 Issue Date: 22 October 2014