

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC STATEMENT

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Amnesty International urges protection of Roma and other vulnerable groups from forced evictions and calls again for independent investigation into Romania's role in CIA renditions and secret detention programmes

Human Rights Council adopts Universal Periodic Review outcome on Romania

Amnesty International welcomes that Romania has accepted ten recommendations regarding access of marginalized groups, especially Roma, to adequate housing.¹ These include calls on Romania to adopt legislation to protect the right of Roma people to adequate housing. The organization urges Romania to ensure their early and full implementation and also calls on the government to adopt a legislative ban on forced evictions as a matter of urgency.

The organization is concerned that gaps in current legislation may allow local authorities to sweep away entire long-established Romani communities and to relocate them to inadequate housing in segregated areas. Such relocations often lead to further marginalization and increased poverty of Roma.

Despite assurances – made during the UPR and also in meetings with NGOs² – that access to housing for marginalized individuals and communities is a government priority, Amnesty International continues to document cases of forced eviction, including of people living in informal settlements. The organization will shortly publish a report documenting evictions in Cluj-Napoca, Baia Mare and Piatra Neamț and the devastating impact of such evictions on people's lives.

Amnesty International notes that a number of states have called for an independent, impartial, thorough and effective investigation into Romania's involvement in the CIA rendition and secret detention programmes.³ It is disappointing; however, that Romania has not accepted these recommendations.

The organization is dismayed by the continuing failure of many European governments to undertake independent investigations of their involvement in the U.S. operations, under which individuals were apprehended without due process and interrogated using methods amounting to torture. Some of them still languish in Guantanamo. Last September, the European Parliament denounced European governments, including Romania, for failing to carry out or obstructing parliamentary and judicial inquiries into these violations.

Earlier in 2012, Mr Abd al-Rahim al-Nashiri, a Saudi national, filed an application with the European Court of Human Rights arguing that Romania had failed to effectively investigate his

¹ A/HRC/23/5, recommendations 109.48 (Costa Rica), 109.60 (Chile), 109.61 (France), 109.62 (Austria), 109.63 (State of Palestine), 109.64 (Switzerland), 109.108 (Malaysia), 109.135 (United Kingdom & Northern Ireland), 109.136 (China), 109.137 (USA).

² Meeting between a delegation of Amnesty International, European Roma Rights Centre, Fundația Desire and the Romanian Minister of Regional Development, 13 February 2013, Bucharest.

³ A/HRC/23/5, recommendations 109.155-157 (Switzerland, France, Belarus).

claim that he was held in secret CIA detention in Romania. In September 2012, the European Court communicated the case to Romania asking the government to present its observations to it.

Amnesty International again calls again on Romania to open and undertake an independent investigation into state and foreign actors' roles in these operations as a first vital step towards accountability.

Background

The UN Human Rights Council adopted the outcome of the Universal Periodic Review of Romania on 6 June 2013 during its 23rd session. Prior to the adoption of the review outcome, Amnesty International delivered the oral statement above.

Amnesty International had earlier submitted information on the situation of human rights in Romania: <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/asset/EUR39/012/2012/en/0e7e85f8-7cfb-4a1f-94e3-3cc662f3e073/eur390122012en.pdf>

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