

URGENT ACTION

ROMA EVICTED FROM SETTLEMENTS IN ROME

Residents in at least three unauthorized Roma settlements in Rome have been evicted, continuing what seems to be a wave of forced evictions in the Italian capital. According to local NGOs, more than 30 settlements have been evicted since the beginning of April. There are fears that residents in other Roma settlements in the city are at imminent risk of eviction.

On 18 April, Roma families residing in the settlement of Via Severini were evicted by law enforcement authorities. Later the same day, the eviction of Roma people living in the abandoned Mira Lanza factory followed. On the morning of 20 April, a third eviction took place in the settlement of Via del Flauto. These evictions are part of a wave of evictions of unauthorized settlements in Rome, with more than 30 evictions having been reported since the beginning of April. On 6 April, Rome's Mayor Gianni Alemanno declared, referring to the new wave of evictions, that they were urgent to avoid irregular migrants recently arrived from Tunisia finding refuge in irregular camps.

According to reports by local NGOs, the evictions were implemented without prior notification or consultation with the affected communities. Only women and children were provisionally offered alternative accommodation in the Centre for the Assistance of Asylum Seekers (Centro di Accoglienza per richiedenti asilo – CARA) of Castelnuovo di Porto. This offer was refused in almost all cases, as the families do not want to be separated.

While forced evictions of smaller unauthorized settlements had been carried out in Rome recently, the settlements now targeted are among the biggest in the city. It is estimated that around 700 people, including pregnant women and many children, have been made homeless as a consequence of the three evictions. The lack of security and inadequate living conditions in makeshift camps cannot be solved by forced evictions, which will leave the communities in worse housing and living conditions.

PLEASE WRITE IMMEDIATELY in Italian, English or your own language:

- Immediately stop all forced evictions of Roma settlements in Rome, and ensure that evictions are carried out only as a last resort, and in full compliance with the guarantees required under regional and international human rights standards, including genuine consultation and the provision of adequate alternative housing to all those affected, without need to separate families;
- Provide remedial measures, including adequate alternative housing, to those who have been affected by forced evictions;
- Immediately put the “Nomad Plan” on hold and take steps to review it in consultation with those affected, to ensure that a revised plan provides adequate housing solutions for all those affected in line with international human rights law and not perpetuating segregation;

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 6 MAY TO:

Prefect of Rome

Giuseppe PECORARO - Via IV
Novembre, 119/A – 00187 Roma –
ITALY
Fax. +39 06 6729 4555
Email: prefettura.roma@interno.it

And copies to:

Minister of Interior

Roberto Maroni
Palazzo Viminale
Via Agostino Depretis, 7
00184 Roma. Italy
Fax: +39 06 4654 9832
Email:
caposegreteria.ministro@interno.it

Mayor of Rome

Gianni Alemanno
Via del Campidoglio, 1
Telefono 06-0606
Fax06-67103590
Fax: +39 06 6710 3590
Email: sindaco@comune.roma.it

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. Check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Amnesty International is concerned that the evictions might have been implemented in violation of relevant international law and standards. Forced evictions are prohibited under international human rights law. Evictions must only be undertaken as a last resort and only after genuine consultation with the affected communities to explore all feasible alternatives. Legal and procedural protections such as prior notice, access to effective remedies, and provision of compensation must be in place before evictions are carried out and all those who are unable to provide for themselves must be given adequate alternative housing, in line with international standards.

The "Nomad Plan" is a controversial housing plan paving the way for the forced eviction of thousands of Roma and the resettlement of most, but not all of them, in new or expanded camps on the outskirts of big cities. Its implementation is only driving those affected deeper into a cycle of forced evictions and destroying any chance of integration and social inclusion.

For further information, please see: Italy: stop forced evictions and provide adequate alternative housing for Roma families in Rome, at <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/EUR30/004/2011/en>

This work forms part of Amnesty International's global Demand Dignity campaign and the European Fight Against Discrimination campaign.

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