

URGENT ACTION

OVER 200 ROMA FACE FORCED EVICTION IN FRANCE

More than 200 Roma, including around 50 children, living in an informal settlement near Bobigny, in the north east suburbs of Paris, are at risk of being forcibly evicted following an eviction procedure initiated by the municipality. A court in Bobigny will deliver its ruling on 30 May.

The Roma at the settlement were officially notified by a bailiff on 23 May that an eviction procedure had been initiated. Several days earlier, representatives of the municipality in which the settlement is located visited the settlement and told the Roma they would be evicted on 2 June. They did not specify how this would be carried out, which caused concern and anxiety amongst the Roma. Amnesty International believe the inhabitants of the camp were not consulted and no alternative accommodation has been offered to date to the families. They now live in complete uncertainty regarding their future and face imminent homelessness.

Children at the settlement are well integrated in their schools, enjoying the support of their fellow pupils and teachers. The education currently enjoyed by Roma children in Bobigny was highlighted by the inter-ministerial delegation for housing (DIHAL) as an example of "good practice". Forcibly evicting the families would disrupt the children's education, as has happened in other forced evictions documented by Amnesty International. Many of the older youths living in the camp volunteer with a social inclusion programme set up by 'Rom Civic', which has been welcomed by ministers responsible for youth, housing and the fight against social exclusion. Many of the adults have lived in France for over a decade, they speak French and are either working, or actively seeking work.

If it takes place this eviction will violate international standards which prohibit forced evictions and specify that any lawful eviction must be accompanied by safeguards and protections set out in international law on forced evictions, including to ensure that the affected community is provided with adequate alternative housing. Any eviction of the settlement would invalidate all the positive progress made by the families to integrate into the local community.

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

- Urging the authorities to prevent the execution of any court order that would authorise a forced eviction, at least until the authorities have, in consultation with the Roma community, identified adequate alternative housing, in compliance with the requirements of international law;
- Insisting on the strict application of the inter-ministerial circular of 26 August 2012 to ensure that measures, including access to suitable accommodation, be put in place, so that no one will be left homeless following the eviction.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 2 JUNE 2014 TO:

Préfet de la Seine Saint Denis

M. Philippe Galli

Préfet de Seine Saint Denis

Préfecture de Seine Saint Denis

1, Esplanade Jean Moulin

93 700 Bobigny cedex, France

Fax: 01 48 30 2288 Email:

prefecture@seine-saint-denis.gouv.fr

philippe.galli@seine-saint-denis.gouv.fr

Salutation: Monsieur le Préfet

Madame la Déléguée du Préfet

Mme Khadija David

Préfecture de Seine Saint Denis

1 esplanade Jean Moulin

93 007 Bobigny cedex - France

Tel : 01 41 60 65 61

Fax: 01 41 60 60 74

Email : khadija.david@seine-saint-

denis.gouv.fr

**Salutation: Madame la Déléguée du
Préfet**

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.

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



URGENT ACTION

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Under international law, including the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, to which France is a state party, the authorities must guarantee the right to adequate housing, without discrimination. This means that they must not carry out forced evictions and must protect all people from them. France must also ensure that people facing forced evictions are able to access an effective remedy for any violations of their right to adequate housing and other rights. Any eviction must only be carried out as a last resort after all feasible alternatives have been explored with those affected.

Forced evictions are evictions carried out without genuine consultation or adequate notice with those affected, without sufficient legal safeguards and without the provision of adequate alternative housing for those who need it.

Amnesty International's 2012 report *Chased Away: Forced Evictions of Roma in Ile-de-France* (AI Index: EUR 21/012/2012, November 2012, <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/EUR21/012/2012/en>) examined the precarious housing situation faced by Roma people in France, and focused on forced evictions in the greater Parisian region.

Amnesty International's 2013 report *Told to move on: forced evictions of Roma in France* (AI Index: EUR 21/007/2013, September 2013, http://www.amnesty.eu/content/assets/PressReleases/EUR_21_007_2013_Told_to_Move_On_-_Forced_Evictions_of_Roma_in_France.pdf) highlighted that in 2013 evictions of Roma individuals and communities in Ile-de-France, Lille and Lyon continued to be carried out without complying with international safeguards and domestic measures introduced in August 2013.

Amnesty International's found that, notwithstanding efforts by the new government to better coordinate the conduct of evictions and facilitate the integration of people living in informal settlements, in practice forced evictions have continued apace, and the authorities remained committed to enforcing eviction orders even where no adequate alternative housing or other appropriate safeguards were in place.

The Roma victims of forced evictions in Ile-de-France, Lille, Lyon and Marseille were often rendered homeless, and lost their belongings; As a result many relocated in other existing informal settlements or established new ones. Many Roma have therefore been forcibly evicted several times. According to NGO estimates, some 20,000 Roma were forcibly evicted throughout France in 2013.

Name: Over 200 Roma in France

Gender m/f: both

UA: 141/14 Index: EUR 21/002/2014 Issue Date: 28 May 2014