

# URGENT ACTION

## ROMANI FAMILIES FORCIBLY EVICTED IN ROME

**On 28 September, about 250 Roma people were forcibly evicted from the camp of Tor de' Cenci in Rome. The only alternative housing solution offered was the transfer to racially segregated housing.**

Around 250 Romani residents of Tor de' Cenci, mostly of Bosnian origin, were forcibly evicted on 28 September. They had been living in the camp for up to 16 years. Local and national police were present in the camp to conduct the eviction, together with bulldozers to destroy the containers where families had lived for years.

The eviction took place shortly after the regional administrative tribunal had ruled, on 26 September, that the mayor of Rome's eviction order (dated 31 July) was lawful and could therefore be implemented. The order ruled that the camp should be vacated and closed for health and safety reasons.

In violation of their rights, the residents of Tor de' Cenci camp were not given any warning that the eviction would take place that day. They were given only a few hours to pack their things and were provided with inadequate information about where they would be moved temporarily. The eviction started in the early morning. Many children reportedly witnessed the rushed destruction of their homes in tears amidst the confusion of the eviction. Children of school age missed a day of school. Moreover, the families were not offered adequate alternative housing solutions. The only housing alternative offered was the relocation to one of two authorized camps (Castel Romano and La Barbuta), both isolated mono-ethnic facilities, which would mean further ethnic segregation for these families. In fact, these camps are destined to house Roma only and are located in remote areas outside the city where basic services, including public transport, are not easily accessible. The camps are fenced and controlled by CCTV. Residents are subject to unlawful restrictions to fundamental rights, such as the right to family life (for example, all external visitors must be authorized and identified and can visit only in certain hours).

Around 100 were resettled back to La Barbuta camp. These were families who had already been resettled to La Barbuta camp at the end of July and had – in the days before the court ruling – gone back to Tor de' Cenci camp in the hope to be reinstated there in case of a ruling against the closure. Another group of 150 persons (90 of them children) were transferred to a temporary emergency structure, where they face degrading living conditions (they all live in a warehouse formerly used to host fairs and have to reportedly share a dozen portable loos and eight showers located outside), waiting to be further transferred to the Castel Romano camp.

Amnesty International reiterates its calls to ensure that families of Tor de' Cenci have access to reparation and an effective remedy, and are provided with an adequate long-term solution to their housing needs, which must not be discriminatory housing in a segregated camp.

Amnesty International will continue working to support these communities as part of its long-term campaigning on Roma's right to adequate housing, monitoring the situation closely and taking further action as appropriate.

**No further action is requested at this time from the UA network. Many thanks to all who sent appeals.**

This is the first update of UA 182/12. Further information: <http://amnesty.org/en/library/info/EUR30/007/2012/en>

Name: Around 250 Roma people

Gender m/f: Both

Further information on UA: 182/12 Index: EUR 30/018/2012 Issue Date: 10 October 2012

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