



## ROMANIA DUMPED BY A SEWAGE PLANT

In June 2004, around 100 Roma, including families with young children, were forcibly evicted by municipal authorities from a crumbling building on Pictor Nagy Imre Street in the centre of Miercurea Ciuc in central Romania. Some of them were moved to the outskirts of the city next to a sewage treatment plant. For more than five years, around 75 Romani people have been living in eight metal cabins and 14 self-constructed shacks in an area deemed unfit for human habitation.

In 2001, the authorities told the residents of the building that they needed to move for their own safety. But there was no genuine consultation with the community and residents were not given sufficient information or the opportunity to suggest alternative solutions. Residents claim the authorities assured them that the metal cabins provided were temporary and that proper housing would be made available in due course.

The authorities assigned temporary contracts for the metal cabins only to families who had been legally residing in the building on Pictor Nagy Imre Street. Others were forced to build makeshift shacks and may be forcibly evicted again in the future.

The metal cabins are overcrowded and the sanitation facilities are inadequate. The cabins and shacks do not offer adequate protection from damp, heat, rain and wind. In winter, the temperature in Miercurea Ciuc can fall below  $-25^{\circ}\text{C}$ . Those who live next to the city's sewage plant endure an unpleasant smell of human excrement. A sign on the plant's fence warns about "toxic danger".

More than five years later, and after various court cases, the communities are still unable to realize their right to adequate housing.

