

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

PUBLIC STATEMENT

AI Index: EUR 30/007/2010

9 June 2010

Italy: Amnesty International urges end to forced evictions and protection of the rights of migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers

United Nations Human Rights Council adopts Universal Periodic Review outcome on Italy

Many recommendations were made to Italy to take effective measure against racism and to prevent discrimination against migrants, asylum seekers and members of minorities, including Roma and Sinti people.¹ Amnesty International welcomes Italy's support of the majority of these recommendations, in particular the recommendation to ensure equal opportunities for the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights, including education, health and housing.²

Amnesty International has longstanding concern at the numerous forced evictions that have affected and continue to affect the Roma and Sinti communities in Italy. Amnesty International is also concerned at the discrimination against these communities in the enjoyment of their right to adequate housing, and considers inadequate the measures taken so far by the authorities to address this problem. The organization is pleased to note, however, that Italy has accepted recommendations to ensure full compliance with international law with regard to forced evictions and to investigate all alternatives to forced eviction of Roma and Sinti people, including through consultation with those directly affected.³ It urges Italy to ensure the prompt implementation of these recommendations.

Amnesty International is very disappointed that Italy rejected the recommendation made by several states to incorporate into domestic law the crime of torture as defined by article 1 of the Convention against Torture and strongly urges Italy to reconsider its position on this recommendation.⁴

Finally, Amnesty International welcomes Italy's acceptance of a wide range of recommendations to strengthen the protection of the rights of migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers in line with international standards, and to guarantee their access to basic social services.⁵ The organization has received reports in the past that over 500 people rescued at sea were taken to Libya by Italian authorities without properly assessing their asylum claims or need for international protection in breach of the principle of *non-refoulement*.

Amnesty International regrets Italy's rejection of recommendations to eliminate the provision in Law No. 94 of 2009 which criminalizes the irregular entry and stay on Italian territory.⁶ It is concerned that this law contains discriminatory provisions that could affect the rights of asylum-seekers and migrants and urges Italy to amend or withdraw these provisions.

¹ /HRC/14/4, paragraph 84, recommendations 16, 18-30, 32, 33, 67-82.

² Ibid, paragraph 84, recommendation 25.

³ Ibid, paragraph 84, recommendations 61, 62.

⁴ Ibid, paragraph 84, recommendation 8.

⁵ Ibid, paragraph 84, recommendations 67-82.

⁶ Ibid, paragraph 84, recommendations 72 and 73.

Background

The UN Human Rights Council adopted the outcome of the Universal Periodic Review of Italy on 9 June 2010 during its 14th session. Prior to the adoption of the report of the review Amnesty International delivered the oral statement above. Amnesty International also contributed to the information basis for the review through its submission on Italy: <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/EUR30/008/2009/en>

Public Document

International Secretariat, Amnesty International, 1 Easton St., London WC1X 0DW, UK
www.amnesty.org
