

URGENT ACTION

EVICCTIONS SUSPENDED BUT ACTION STILL NEEDED

Evictions of residents of Roma settlements in Rome have been suspended during the past week, following action by Amnesty International and other NGO activists. However, the one-week suspension is coming to an end and the risk of forced evictions remains high.

On 22 April, around 300 Roma living in the unauthorised camp of Via Del Cluniacensi were evicted. Subsequently, around 100 of them sought shelter in the Church of San Paolo Fuori Le Mura. After two days of negotiations with local authorities and representatives of the church, alternative accommodation was provided for the whole community for the 2-3 months to come. Previous offers for temporary accommodation, addressing women and children only, had been refused by the affected families as they would have separated them.

As a result of the pressure from civil society, on 25 April, the authorities suspended evictions for a week. However, the risk of forced evictions after the elapse of this period remains high. Local authorities have publicly stated their intention to resume evictions during the current week.

PLEASE WRITE IMMEDIATELY, in Italian or your own language, calling authorities to:

- 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;
- Provide all those who were evicted with access to effective remedies and adequate alternative housing, ensuring that families are not separated;
- 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 all those affected with adequate housing solutions in line with international human rights law and does not perpetuate segregation.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 6 MAY 2011 TO:

Prefect of Rome
Giuseppe PECORARO
Via IV Novembre, 119/A
00187 Roma – ITALY
Fax: +39 06 6729 4555
Email: urp.pref_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 ALEMANNI
Via del Campidoglio, 1
00186 Roma - ITALY
Fax: +39 06 6710 3590
Email: sindaco@comune.roma.it

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date. This is the first update of UA 121/11. Further information: <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/EUR30/009/2011/en>

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