

URGENT ACTION

ROMA FAMILIES GET TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION

On 12 February, nine Romani families from the Babrru tent site moved from the Albanian Ombudsperson's Office - where they had taken shelter after leaving Babrru - to the premises of the Romani Baxt Albania (RBA, Albanian Romani Association) in Tirana.

According to the Albanian authorities the families will stay at the RBA premises for a month while renovation works are carried out at a former military barracks where they will have permanent housing. However, press reports have indicated that the present condition of the barracks is very poor and that the site may be subject to a property dispute.

The Ombudsperson has stated that he intends to set up a Task Force together with Tirana Municipality to carry out a full registration of the Romani community in Tirana. Together with the Mayor of Tirana he has initiated a plan to hold a 'gala evening' on 29 February to raise funds to assist the registration of the Romani community.

Please write immediately in English or your own language:

- Welcome efforts on the part of the Ombudsperson's Office and 'Romani Baxt Albania' to provide temporary shelter for these families;
- Urge the authorities to ensure consultation with the families with regard to their permanent resettlement and that any permanent housing offered to them meets international standards for adequate housing, and that the families are kept fully informed and updated on progress.
- Urge that pending relocation, the families are given adequate access to healthcare and to education for their children

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 28 MARCH 2012 TO:

Mayor of Tirana

Z.Lulzim Basha
Blvd. Dëshmorët e Kombit, Tirana,
Albania
Email: kabinet@tirana.gov.al
Salutation: Dear Mr Basha

Minister of Labour, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities

Z.Spiro Ksera Ministër i Punës, Cështjeve
Sociale dhe Shanseve të Barabarta
Rruga e Kavajës
Tirana,
Albania
Email: spiroksera@yahoo.gr
Salutation: Dear Minister

And copies to:

The Ombudsperson
Z. Igli Totozani
Institucioni i Avokatit të Popullit
Blv. "Zhan D'Ark", Nr. 2,
Tirana, Albania
Email: itotozani@avokatipopullit.gov.al
Salutation: Dear Mr Totozani

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country.

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date. Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date. This is the first update of UA 32/12. Further information: <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/EUR11/002/2012/en>

Name: Nine Romani families

Gender m/f: Both

Further information on UA: 32/12 Index: EUR 11/003/2012 Issue Date: 15 February 2012

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