

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

Public Statement

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Greece: Amnesty International joins eight other international and Greek local NGOs' Appeal to the Mayor of Athens to Stop the Forced Evictions of Roma residents

In a letter sent on July 29 2005 and addressed to the mayor of Athens, nine NGOs urged Greek authorities to withdraw plans to forcibly evict approximately 70 Albanian Roma families currently living in squalid conditions in three communities in the area of Votanikos, Athens, and to undertake measures to ensure their adequate housing. No plans to avoid their homelessness had been made available.

Earlier, Amnesty International had called on the authorities to stop the evictions of Roma families living in the area of Patras.

The NGOs joining the July 29 action are:

- Amnesty International (AI)
- The Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions (COHRE)
- The Coordinated Organisations and Communities for Roma Human Rights in Greece (SOKADRE)
- European Roma Information Office (ERIO)
- European Roma Rights Centre (ERRC)
- Greek Helsinki Monitor (GHM)
- International Helsinki Federation for Human Rights (IHF)
- Minority Rights Group International (MRGI)
- World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT)

The text of the letter below is available electronically at the following link:

http://cm.greekhelsinki.gr/uploads/2005_files/ghm720_on_athens_roma_evictions_english.doc