

URGENT ACTION

IRISH TRAVELLERS FACING EVICTION LEAVE SITE

The residents of Dale Farm, Essex, UK, left their homes en masse on 20 October, in order to avoid confrontation with bailiffs contracted by Basildon Council to carry out a forced eviction. The eviction will now proceed, and is expected to last a few weeks.

On 20 October, the residents of the part of the Dale Farm Traveller site that Basildon Council, the local authority, regards as an 'unauthorized development' left the site en masse. The residents, who are Irish Travellers, issued a statement outlining their intention to walk out peacefully with their dignity. A number of activists who had camped out at Dale Farm in support of the residents also left the site at the same time.

On 19 October, Essex Police began a police operation to clear access to the site. This was to enable bailiffs who had been contracted by Basildon Council to carry out the forced eviction. The operation began after the Court of Appeal ruled on 17 October that the authorities could proceed with the eviction. During the police operation there were confrontations between the police and activists supporting the Dale Farm residents. Essex Police confirmed that 39 people were arrested during these confrontations.

It remains unclear where the residents leaving Dale Farm will make their next homes. Many remained concerned about being left homeless.

No further action is needed at the moment from the UA network. Many thanks to everyone who sent appeals.

This is the third update of UA 245/11. Further information: <http://amnesty.org/en/library/info/EUR45/018/2011/en>

Name: Dale Farm residents

Gender m/f: Both

Further information on UA: 245/11 Index: EUR 45/020/2011 Issue Date: 21 October 2011

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