



HAUT-COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
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13 December 2019

Excellency,

I would like to inform you that in the course of its 100th Session, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination considered under its Early Warning and Urgent Action Procedure allegations of discrimination against Roma in the Russian Federation.

The Committee received information alleging that an inter-ethnic violent confrontation involving Roma and no-Roma took place in the Village of Chemodanovka, Penza Oblast in June 2019. As a result, around 900 local Roma persons had to flee. The information also reports cases of arbitrary detention and inhuman treatment against Roma committed by law enforcement officers.

In addition, the information alleges that anti-Roma pogrom occurred in Ust-Abakan, Republic of Khakassia, in May 2019. Violent confrontation between Roma and no-Roma persons led to the death of a young Russian man. Around 500 Roma persons fled the village because of threat and intimidations. The information also alleges that Roma are subject to a Court order to demolish around 15 of their houses, without alternate option for resettlement. The organization submitting the information alleges violations of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination, in particular articles 4 and 5 of the Convention.

The Committee recalls its general recommendation No. 27 (2000) on discrimination against Roma. It also recalls the State party that it has raised concerns about violent attacks against Roma and recommended to adopt measures to combat hate crimes, racist hate speech and racial discrimination against Roma (CERD/C/RUS/CO/23-24, paras. 16, 22 and 39).

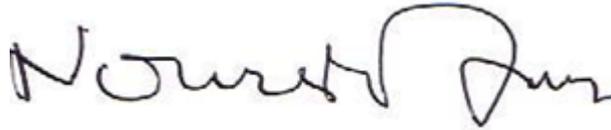
In accordance with Article 9(1) of the Convention and article 65 of its Rules of Procedure, the Committee requests that the State party submit information on all of the issues of concern outlined above by 13 March 2020, as well as on any action already taken to address them. In particular, it requests that the State party provide information on measures taken to:

His Excellency Mr. Gennady Gatilov
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation
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- (a) Ensure thorough and impartial investigation regarding the death of the young Russian man, mentioned above;
- (b) Investigate allegations of discrimination against Roma mentioned above, hold those responsible accountable and provide Roma with effective remedies and redress including reparation;
- (c) Protect Roma victims from any forms of retaliation or reprisals for reporting such cases;
- (d) Prevent forced evictions of Roma and house demolition, and when resettlement is absolutely necessary, ensure that families and individuals affected are provided with alternative adequate housing and compensation;
- (e) Promote dialogue and mutual understanding between different Roma and Non Roma communities with a view to achieving tolerance and peace.

Allow me, Excellency, to reiterate the wish of the Committee to continue to engage in a constructive dialogue with the Government of the Russian Federation, with a view to assisting it to implement the Convention effectively.

Yours sincerely,



Nouredine Amir
Chair

Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination